



May 9, 2006

**TRANSCRIPT**  
**May 9, 2006**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PRESENT**

George Leventhal, President	Marilyn J. Praisner, Vice President
Phil Andrews	Howard Denis
Nancy Floreen	Michael Knapp
Thomas Perez	Steven A. Silverman
	Michael Subin



May 9, 2006

1 Council President Leventhal,  
2 Good morning everyone. Is Imam Daud Hanif here? Apparently not. Okay, let's have a  
3 brief moment of silence. Absolutely, let's commemorate the officer who was tragically  
4 murdered yesterday in Fairfax County. Thank you very much. Is Mr. Andrews available?  
5 Okay. Okay. Well, let's have our History Day winners congregate in the front of the room  
6 please. I know, I know. Just stand by for a moment for Mr. Andrews. That's what we're  
7 doing isn't it? The proclamation and recognition? Absolutely please. The Historical  
8 Society, please.

9  
10 Councilmember Andrews,  
11 This is a live mic, guys, so keep that in mind. And this is Nancy Floreen over here  
12 [INAUDIBLE]. We're going to tell the truth as we always do. These are the, okay, these  
13 are the...

14  
15 Councilmember Silverman,  
16 If we got the memo.

17  
18 [LAUGHTER]

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 Okay Mr. Denis, why don't you begin?

22  
23 Councilmember Denis,  
24 Okay. The bulb doesn't work but I want to make sure that we're on, okay. Welcome to  
25 History Day. And memo to colleagues if everyone who separates yourself from the  
26 initials and the acronyms and the sheets of paper with the numbers on them and find  
27 out what's really going on in Montgomery County, as we all do, go to anything involving  
28 education in Montgomery County. This is a particular pleasure for me because it's  
29 History Day. And we have some of the winners of the History Day competition, which is  
30 open to public schools, private schools and home schoolers. And first, before we get  
31 into that, I'd like to ask the students, the Historical Society people who are here, do you  
32 know what famous day in history yesterday and today was and is? Anyone? I can see  
33 all right. This wasn't your topic, and we introduce you I want you to tell us what your  
34 topic was. VE Day, VE Day. Big, Victory in Europe day, because of the International  
35 Date Line it occurred on a different day in Europe than here, but 41 years ago  
36 yesterday/today is when the Germans surrendered to the Allies in Germany. And it was  
37 General Wilhelm Keitel of the OKW, *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht*, who actually  
38 surrendered in person to General Eisenhower. It was actually leaked to the press a day  
39 before. So President Truman was on the air announcing this and reading Eisenhower's  
40 proclamation. We're here on a very historic day to celebrate History Day and of course  
41 the contest itself -- the winners of the contest throughout our schools was announced on



May 9, 2006

1 March 25th, Saturday, over at Julius West Middle School here in Rockville. And now I  
2 have another question, what day is March 25th?

3  
4 Multiple Speakers,  
5 Maryland Day.

6  
7 Councilmember Denis,  
8 Maryland Day. So it happened just by coincidence and that Saturday, March 25th, and  
9 that is the day of course in 1634 when the arch and the dove landed at St Mary's  
10 County and helped to found the State of Maryland. And so I do want to thank people  
11 from our staffs in welcoming Mr. Andrews, my colleague, here, and thank you. And I'm  
12 just going to thank Mr. Andrews' colleague who has taken a great interest in this and  
13 was at the Maryland History Day award-winning contest and to thank our joint staff, If I  
14 may say so, Lisa Mandel and Colleen Lauer who helped to put this together. And also  
15 for our history students before we get into the actual awards and Mr. Andrews, to make  
16 remarks and read the proclamation I want to recommend a good history book to you,  
17 one that I'm finishing up right now. I have it on my desk right over there, it's called  
18 "Team of Rivals", anyone do anything on the Civil War, or do you follow the Civil War?  
19 But it was big, you know about 150 years ago or so. "Team of Rivals" is about President  
20 Lincoln and his cabinet, and it's a Pulitzer Prize winning book by Doris Kearns Goodwin.  
21 So, I strongly recommend it to history students. So with that introduction, I'll turn it over  
22 to colleague Mr. Andrews and then we'll make our proclamation.

23  
24 Councilmember Andrews,  
25 Thank you, Councilmember Denis. It's wonderful to be joined here by a number of the  
26 winners of the History Day competition and the venerable staff of the Montgomery  
27 County Historical Society. This was the seventh annual Montgomery County History  
28 Day held at Julius West. The topics of the papers ranged from Women's Suffrage, to the  
29 Tet Offensive, to the Manhattan Project, and students are encouraged to go beyond  
30 library sources, to go the original sources and draw their own conclusions. I want to  
31 thank all the teachers who helped sponsor this, the parents who were supportive, but  
32 most of all the students who took their time to really understand the history projects they  
33 were talking about. Because, of course, we should all be interested in history. It effects  
34 a great deal of what we do and what we can do. I want to join with Councilmember  
35 Denis in congratulating the winners and especially those who were able to join us today.  
36 Do you want to read the proclamation?

37  
38 Councilmember Denis,  
39 Read the proclamation, and as you mentioned Mr. Andrews, the displays that the kids  
40 put up, we toured beforehand were really so impressive in addition to the contest  
41 winners there was a part of Julius West that had these displays, and it just blew me  
42 away. I just was so impressed with the work that went into this. Maybe we can alternate



May 9, 2006

1 the "Whereas" clause, if that's all right? The County Council, Montgomery County  
2 Maryland Proclamation; WHEREAS, the Montgomery County History Day competition  
3 challenges middle and high school students to broaden their interest in history, and...

4  
5 Councilmember Andrews,  
6 WHEREAS, the History Day competition focuses on helping students to develop a high  
7 quality of research and writing skills by emphasizing their importance, and...

8  
9 Councilmember Denis,  
10 WHEREAS, the History Day competition engages students to produce exhibits,  
11 documentaries, plays, or research papers using multiple sources, and...

12  
13 Councilmember Andrews,  
14 WHEREAS, the History Day competition requires students to presents their research  
15 findings and conclusions in a structured format, and...

16  
17 Councilmember Denis,  
18 WHEREAS, Montgomery County history is presented by the Montgomery County  
19 Historical Society, with support from the Maryland Humanities Council, Columbia Gas of  
20 Maryland, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the Maryland  
21 Historical Trust, the Maryland National Area Park and Planning Commission and  
22 National History Day.

23  
24 Councilmember Andrews,  
25 Now therefore be it resolved that the County Council of Montgomery County Maryland  
26 hereby proclaims and congratulates to the winners of the 2006 Montgomery County  
27 History Day Competition...

28  
29 Councilmember Denis,  
30 and commends you for the dedication and commitment to individual excellence as your  
31 love of history that are both an inspiration and source of encouragement to all the young  
32 people in the Montgomery County community.

33  
34 Councilmember Andrews,  
35 Presented this ninth day of May, 2006, signed by George Leventhal, Council President.

36  
37 Councilmember Denis,  
38 Let's give it up for the winners!

39  
40 [APPLAUSE]

41  
42 Councilmember Denis,



May 9, 2006

1 Now, what we're going to do is, anyone from the Historical Society like to say a few  
2 words, Emily?

3  
4 Emily Correll,

5 Actually I would like to challenge Councilmember Denis to tell me what April 22nd was  
6 that's when the state competition was. We'll have to find a special historical day for that,  
7 which there will be one. I want to thank the Council for recognizing these students. They  
8 put in a lot of work; they have learned a great life skill or two. How to research, and then  
9 how to present it in a format that other people can understand what's been going on,  
10 that's a useful thing for anyone in any part of life, and I think they deserve as much  
11 recognition as they can get. Thank you very much for having them recognized.

12  
13 Councilmember Denis,

14 Thank you. And now, we're just going to read off the names, Phil do you want to?

15  
16 Councilmember Andrews,

17 Yes, let's see, we have Anthony Korzan. Okay, Anthony. Are you here, Anthony? Okay,  
18 Anthony why don't you come up. We're going to find your name, but while we're finding  
19 your name why don't we tell you what the project was.

20  
21 Anthony Korzan,

22 I had a group project and a group member. My group member was Tony Xue.

23  
24 Councilmember Denis,

25 Tony, come on up.

26  
27 Anthony Korzan,

28 And our project was about the Tiananmen Square massacre.

29  
30 Tony Xue,

31 And it's basically about students in China who took a stand against the Chinese  
32 government for democracy.

33  
34 Councilmember Andrews,

35 Okay.

36  
37 Anthony Korzan,

38 And we did a presentation board and our family background history has a lot to do with  
39 the topic, for example his parents had actually been there.

40  
41 Tony Xue,

42 They witnessed June 4th massacre in Tiananmen Square.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Anthony Korzan,  
3 Since I'm from Poland, my parents are very anti-Communist. My dad was in the  
4 Solidarity Movement and those two topics have a lot to do with each other. So we  
5 thought it was a good topic to do.  
6  
7 Councilmember Andrews,  
8 It was a great topic.  
9  
10 Councilmember Denis,  
11 That's impressive.  
12  
13 Councilmember Andrews,  
14 Congratulations.  
15  
16 Councilmember Denis,  
17 Solidarity and Tiananmen Square, isn't this great! Congratulations to you. Rather than  
18 fumbling through for the names, we'll find -- okay, we'll sort them out later.  
19  
20 Councilmember Andrews,  
21 We'll get them to you. Okay, Tamara Pico.  
22  
23 Councilmember Denis,  
24 Tell us what your competition was.  
25  
26 Tamara Pico,  
27 I wrote a paper on Darwinism, and how the idea had an impact on today, and how we  
28 see the world.  
29  
30 Councilmember Andrews,  
31 What gave you the idea for the project?  
32  
33 Tamara Pico,  
34 When I chose the topic there was a lot of stuff on the newspaper about Dover High  
35 School, and I found that interesting.  
36  
37 Councilmember Andrews,  
38 Very good, congratulations.  
39  
40 Councilmember Denis,  
41 I actually found your name, Tamara, Tamara Pico. Okay.



May 9, 2006

Councilmember Andrews,

Okay, is Geoff Danilack here? Nope, okay, Christopher Perdue? Christopher, congratulations.

Christopher Perdue,

Thank you.

Councilmember Andrews,

What was your project on?

Councilmember Denis,

Nice to see you again.

Christopher Perdue,

Thank you. I did a presentation about George Mason, and his refusal to sign the Constitution, and how that impacts our world today.

Councilmember Andrews,

Well, good job.

Christopher Perdue,

Thank you.

Councilmember Denis,

Okay, well we have another Perdue here, but, here we go Christopher, congratulations to you.

Christopher Perdue,

Thank you.

Councilmember Denis,

And let's let Clyde take the Grip and Grin. And can we bring back Poland and Solidarity, and Tiananmen Square, because now we have the proclamations, we'll take the pictures.

Councilmember Andrews,

Okay.

Councilmember Denis,

Okay, just to make sure we memorialize this. Okay, hold it up there, like this with your name, and come on in. Okay Tony.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Andrews,  
3 All right please join us up here, and tell us your name and your project.  
4

5 Rohit Samson,  
6 My name is Rohit Samson, and I did a project on Charles Darwin and the theory of  
7 evolution, and this was, I think a great topic for because when I was a kid I learned a lot  
8 about him, and so it was easier for me to find facts for him. And I went through his  
9 autobiographies, and through the library and the University of Cambridge, which was  
10 one of the major sources that I had.  
11

12 Councilmember Denis,  
13 Is the Beagle and Galapagos, right? Congratulations, let's get a picture.  
14

15 Councilmember Andrews,  
16 Okay, congratulations. Okay, please join us. Tell us your name and project.  
17

18 Caitlin Perdue,  
19 All right, my name is Caitlin Perdue, I did a project about John Wycliffe and the stand  
20 that he took, and how that affects us in America today.  
21

22 Councilmember Denis,  
23 What was that stand?  
24

25 Caitlin Perdue,  
26 Translating the Bible into English, and standing up for literacy in England, standing up  
27 for having a written language. And then standing up to the power of the Church and  
28 saying "No you shouldn't have the power that you have, we should have more  
29 separation between church and state."  
30

31 Councilmember Denis,  
32 Wow, what year was that, when did he live?  
33

34 Caitlin Perdue,  
35 He lived in 16 – no, I'm sorry, mid-17<sup>th</sup> -- I'm sorry, I'm getting really mixed up today.  
36

37 Councilmember Denis,  
38 That's okay, so he helped to form what later became the United States of America by  
39 his writings, that's great.  
40

41 Councilmember Andrews,  
42 Good work.





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Denis,  
3 That's great Caitlin, congratulations to you. I think we have others that, let's give it up  
4 again to these great kids.

5  
6 [APPLAUSE]

7  
8 Multiple Speakers,  
9 [INAUDIBLE]

10  
11 Emily Correll,  
12 These two are going on to the national competition.

13  
14 Councilmember Denis,  
15 Okay, we have some national competition.

16  
17 Unidentified Speaker,  
18 Everybody look this way.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 All right, thank you very much to these terrific young men and women. Are there any  
22 agenda or calendar changes, Ms. Lauer?

23  
24 Linda Lauer,  
25 Two additional, we have two changes to the Consent Calendar. We're deferring the  
26 confirmation of the appointment to the Fire and Rescue Commission. That will come  
27 back before us in this next couple of weeks. There is an addition of an introduction of a  
28 resolution to approve Fire Station 18, that issue will go to Public Safety Committee on  
29 May 10th.

30  
31 Council President Leventhal,  
32 Thank you. Are there any petitions?

33  
34 Linda Lauer,  
35 Yes, we do have a number of petitions. We have support for the public libraries to be  
36 used for staff and materials. We have support for the HOC proposal to purchase the  
37 property on Dale Drive in Silver Springs. Support for a grant request for the Most  
38 Valuable Kids Program. Support for replacing of tar and chipped surface medium with  
39 hot mix asphalt surface on certain residential streets in Montgomery County. Supporting  
40 the proposed funding for Food and Friends Program, and support for the modernization  
41 of Bells Elementary School.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Okay, without objection the petitions will be received. Do we have minutes for approval?  
4

5 Council Clerk,  
6 We have the minutes of April 25th for approval.  
7

8 Council President Leventhal,  
9 We have we need a motion for approve the April 25th, Mr. Knapp has moved, and Ms.  
10 Praisner has seconded the approval of minutes for April 25th. Those in favor will signify  
11 by raising their hands. It is unanimous among those present. On the Consent Calendar  
12 we need a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Mr. Knapp has moved, and Ms.  
13 Praisner has seconded approval of the Consent Calendar. There are no comments on  
14 the Consent Calendar. Those in favor of its approval will signify by raising their hands. It  
15 is unanimous among those present. We are now in Legislative Session. Is there a  
16 Legislative Journal for approval?  
17

18 Council Clerk,  
19 The Legislative Journal of April 25th for approval.  
20

21 Council President Leventhal,  
22 Mr. Andrews has moved and Mr. Knapp has seconded approval the legislative journal of  
23 April 25th. Those in favor will signify by raising their hand. It is unanimous among those  
24 present. We have a bill before us for introduction expedited Bill 18-06 regarding use of  
25 funds in Urban Districts. Ms. Praisner.  
26

27 Councilmember Praisner,  
28 Yes, I wanted to give an explanation of this. The Management of Fiscal Policy  
29 Committee and Transportation and Environments Committees had an interesting  
30 conversation with representatives of the Urban Districts and in particular discussion with  
31 Natalie Cantor from the Regional Service Center, Mid-county Regional Service Center  
32 related to Wheaton and the challenge, or problem associated with the fireworks that has  
33 traditionally been a part of July 4th celebrations in the County that were held at  
34 Westfield Wheaton Plaza. Unfortunately because of the materials used on the roof there  
35 at the plaza it is no longer possible to have fireworks at Wheaton Plaza. And the  
36 challenge for the Urban District is that Urban District funds were used to help support  
37 and fund that event. Locations are still being explored, although they seem to diminish  
38 in number each day. There is still an aggressive effort being pursued to find an  
39 alternative location, the only problem being that that alternative location is outside the  
40 Urban District. And the law as it exists now would not allow Urban District funds to be  
41 spent outside of the Urban District. This legislation would permit the government to use  
42 funds outside of the Urban District if the Council approves an appropriation for



May 9, 2006

1 community, or special event located nearby because there is no appropriate site  
2 available in the Urban District. And it's emergency legislation expedited I should say  
3 legislation in order to provide that it be effective for this fourth of July should that  
4 possibility present itself for this occasion and for any other occasion where this might be  
5 arise.

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,

8 Okay thank you Chairwoman Praisner. Without objection 18-06 is introduced and a  
9 public hearing is scheduled for May 16th at 9:45 in the morning. We are now in District  
10 Council session. We have before us the resolution to establish a public hearing on the  
11 Woodmont Sectional Map Amendment for June 13th at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Praisner has  
12 moved and Ms. Floreen has seconded the motion to establish a public hearing on the  
13 Woodmont Sectional Map Amendment on June 13th. Those in favor will signify by  
14 raising their hands. It is unanimous among those present. We next have a resolution to  
15 establish a public hearing on the Shady Grove Sectional Map Amendment. We need a  
16 motion for approval. Mr. Perez has moved is there a second? Ms. Praisner has  
17 seconded the resolution to establish the Shady Grove Sectional Map Amendment on  
18 June 13th. Those in favor of the resolution establishing a public hearing will signify by  
19 raising their hands. It is unanimous among those present. We next have an introduction  
20 of a Zoning Text Amendment number 06-14 creating transit oriented mixed use zone for  
21 TOMX/TDR standards. We need a motion to establish a resolution on June 13th. Ms.  
22 Praisner has moved, and Mr. Perez has seconded a resolution to establish the public  
23 hearing for June 13th. Those in favor will signify by raising their hands. It is unanimous  
24 among those present. Next we have the introduction of Zoning Text Amendment 06-15,  
25 residential mixed use development or RMX2C/TDR zone standards without objection,  
26 the ZTA is introduced, we need a motion to establish a public hearing on June 13th. Ms.  
27 Praisner has moved, and Mr. Perez has seconded the establishment of a public hearing  
28 on June 13th. Those in favor will signify by raising their hands. It is unanimous among  
29 those present. We turn now to the work session on the FY '07 Operating Budget. Let me  
30 just say that before Chairwoman Floreen walks us through the DPWT budget prior to  
31 the adoption of the CIP that we will be working on today, this Council in its four years in  
32 office had already increased by one-third the funds available for transportation  
33 infrastructure. And I want to commend Chairwoman Floreen and Councilman Silverman  
34 for their proposal which we will be discussing today which for some of us I think was  
35 somewhat new and unforeseen concept that the T&E Committee discussed in detail  
36 and did embrace which will put an additional \$80 million in resources into our capital  
37 budget in the early years of that budget. We'll be discussing that in greater detail, but I  
38 just want to congratulate Chairwoman Floreen for her advocacy for transportation and  
39 also Mr. Silverman for helping to come up with this proposal, which provides resources  
40 and I believe it's a plan that we can afford. Chairwoman Floreen.

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 Well, thank you very much Mr. President. I didn't expect that very gracious introduction  
2 to the Capital Improvements Program in the DPWT budget. Mr. Holmes you wants to  
3 come on down? And would you like to make any opening comments? We're not paying  
4 for the light bulbs, just the sound.

5  
6 Councilmember Praisner,  
7 Actually the whole thing is broken, and we may need to replace the whole thing.

8  
9 Councilmember Floreen,  
10 Mr. Subin...

11  
12 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
13 I may have sound a little different. I have a problem. If you don't hear me it's because  
14 I'm not hearing myself. Good morning, and thank you for allowing me to speak to you.  
15 As you get to the important business of structuring the County's budget. I will be brief.  
16 However, I want to say just a few things I hope as you deliberate the DPWT budget, the  
17 points I mention will assist you as you make your budget decisions. First I remind you  
18 that we live in the third most traffic congested area in the nation. The Texas  
19 Transportation Institute estimates that a commuter in this area experiences  
20 approximately two and a half days, 84 hours annually delayed in traffic. Congestion  
21 relief initiatives are essential. Second our infrastructure is aging and is in need of  
22 immediate attention. We have significant backlog of deferred maintenance relative to  
23 buildings, our County roads, our trees, I could go on. Third, our transit system is  
24 experiencing tremendous growth. Ridership is approximately 9% higher this year than  
25 we experienced last year. We must replace buses that have reached, or are very close  
26 to the end of their economic life. I urge your support for the purchase of nine hybrid  
27 buses to increase our environmental support to the County's Downcounty area and  
28 residents. Further with a growing transit system, I strongly recommend that we no  
29 longer delay building the necessary depots or relying on obsolete command control and  
30 safety systems. Fourth we appreciate your continuing support for our fleet services  
31 operation. With the resources provided and the hard, smart work of a dedicated  
32 technically qualified workforce our vehicles and heavy equipment are available  
33 approximately 90% of the time. Again, we need support for the shops the depot facilities  
34 necessary to run an efficient responsive support service. Fifth our solid waste folks  
35 through their hard work and innovation are moving the County steadily toward the goal  
36 of recycling 50% of our solid waste. We stand at the 41% mark up from approximately  
37 39% last year. Further, their work in cooperation with our energy contractors will result  
38 in cost reductions of approximately \$28 million over the next three years and provide  
39 some reduction in rates paid by our residents. To continue this work and because of  
40 population growth, our solid waste folks require slight increase in personnel. An  
41 increase I urge you to support. Thank you for this opportunity. We are here to answer  
42 your questions, thank you.



May 9, 2006

Councilmember Floreen,

Thank you, Mr. Holmes. I wanted to say I expressed a great deal of appreciation to my colleagues on the T&E Committee, Mr. Perez and the Council President Leventhal. We think we bring to you all a good, balanced approach to addressing our congestion needs, as Mr. Holmes has pointed out we do have significant problems. If the capital elements of this budget are agreed to here, we will have increased this County's commitment to capital improvements for transportation by about 72% over the situation from four years ago. We are very proud of this. It reflects a commitment to problem solving and to initiatives. It reflects a significant attention to addressing basic infrastructure needs, improving our maintenance while at the same time focusing congestion relief on our most congested intersections as well as addressing transit initiatives. And the basic boring stuff as Mr. Holmes indicated, things like maintenance depots, challenging things that tend to sink to the bottom of the pile but are equally critical in the Department's ability to move forward to service our residents. So I wanted to thank everyone who's has been engaged. This effort has involved some very significant creative thinking, not the least of which from the Department of Finance, and we are very optimistic about our ability to move forward in that.

Councilmember Praisner,

I think just for the interest of the structure, we'll come to that issue and we'll have a more comprehensive conversation about that, because the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee also had a discussion about the financing issues and there are some.

Councilmember Floreen,

Great. Okay. With that, we'll just go in the order that Mr. Orlin has laid out for us in the packet here. The first one being -- first section being some adjustments to the Capital Improvements Program. First of all is the North County Maintenance Depot. In a nutshell the proposal from the Committee is to go forward with buying, supporting the Department's initiative to buy a site up in Clarksburg, actually next to the jail. But continue to worry about the functions and the costs associated with this effort. And bring back to us further recommendation. Glen, do you want to take us through the details on this? I know that Mr. Knapp had some questions about this, and we might as well just talk about the issues.

Glenn Orlin,

Okay, I'll be very brief, 'cause I'm sure the packet pretty much says most of it.

Councilmember Praisner,

Well, but folks who are watching may not have the packet so go through from the standpoint of what we're discussing.



May 9, 2006

Glenn Orlin,

Okay. This is a site for a third bus depot it would be in Clarksburg. A site was selected based on a search that was done by the Department and others over the course of actually the last couple years. The decision here is to whether or not to go forward with the acquisition of the site as well as to fund the design of the site. This actually this project has been put off at least once maybe twice in the past in terms of the timing for the start of design. And the Department makes a pretty critical case that given the growth in the transit system, the ride out system, that they project they're going to need to have this depot online within really the next few years. So that's the basis for the Committee's recommendation. One of the issues I raised is how big is the ride-on fleet going to be? There are other transit providers that we currently use. Metro bus being a prime one alternatively to Ride On which has some ability to expand capacity. MTA as well provides bus service in the County, and is also the contract service that is under Ride On, but it's not the regular Ride On fleet. Currently those vehicles are not housed in the Ride On depot, although there are desires by the Department to do that. One of the recommendations is over the course of the next year that the Department conduct a comprehensive review of what the ultimate build out of Ride On will be to determine in fact whether or not you need a depot that's going to be as large as what's being planned for. And that will also inform the design of the project. So that's an important component of the recommendation from the Committee, although in itself doesn't have a particular financial component. The -- in terms of the site, the original estimate that came from the Executive was \$15.7 million for land acquisition costs, their appraisal since then, they believe that actually they can acquire the site for about \$10 million. And so the Committee is recommending a reduction from the Executive's recommendation in that aspect of the cost by \$5.7 million. There are also some particular concerns that I've raised about the POR, about is there some possibilities for providing more efficiencies within the current design. There seems to be some duplication of some of the administrative rooms. You have the same type of rooms for fleet management as you do for highway services. For example, for transit services, where that can be combined to somewhat smaller envelope than has been planned, but that's something that can be worked out in design. So, I could wax eloquent on this as many of us can, that's sort of a summary of where we are with this project.

Councilmember Floreen,  
I believe Mr. Knapp had.

Councilmember Praisner,  
I'm going to call on him right now.

Councilmember Knapp,





May 9, 2006

1 Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Orlin, for your packet because I thought it was actually a lot  
2 of the issues laid them out very well. In your presentation, well, obviously there is a  
3 need for us to local additional facilities for Ride On, for all of our transit. We just had  
4 discussion with Shady Grove. The question continues to be where we put all these  
5 things. So just wanted to find of query a little bit. I don't know where I come down at the  
6 end of this. Glen, you said a search was done by the Department. How, I know we do a  
7 search for Fire Station, services, Regional Services Center kind of lead that charge, and  
8 so there is a lot of community input, a lot of activity that takes place before a site is  
9 actually selected. What efforts went underway to do this site selection process, how  
10 much community input was there during the time the site was being evaluated?

11  
12 Glenn Orlin,  
13 Talk to the Department actually.

14  
15 Edgar Gonzalez,  
16 The Department convened a group of people with representation from MCPS, WSSC,  
17 MTA, we had input from the Fire Department. We have input from the Police  
18 Department. We have input of course from different divisions within DPWT, and we  
19 went looking for space in the Upcounty for a two years. And the only site that would  
20 feed the magnitude of the space that we were looking for was the one that we have  
21 recommended for acquisition. We did not have an intensive public outreach effort on  
22 this. The number of sites that are available to house a facility that will occupy probably  
23 20 acres net, well, actually it was more like 40 acres, are not in existence other than if  
24 we go to parks and we're not going to do that. So we have on top of that we have some  
25 special protection areas that we have to be worried about. And therefore, after two  
26 years of looking at public and private spaces available, there was only this area that we  
27 could find on the west side of I-270.

28  
29 Glenn Orlin,  
30 One thing to add the Department started out actually the search was trying to look for a  
31 much bigger depot that would accommodate not just the Department's needs, but also  
32 WMATA's, Park and Planning, school systems and some other agencies as well, but it  
33 became pretty obvious pretty quickly there wasn't a piece of property big enough for  
34 everybody.

35  
36 Edgar Gonzalez,  
37 Yeah, [INAUDIBLE]. When we were looking and we started searching and we started  
38 asking the other departments what do they need, we came out with a need for 126  
39 buildable acres, that's what we would need. And to find 126 buildable acres in the  
40 Upcounty was impossible.

41  
42 Councilmember Knapp,



May 9, 2006

1 How do you define the Upcounty, what were your parameters?

2  
3 Edgar Gonzalez,

4 We were looking for anything north of the Quince Orchard Road all the way to the  
5 Frederick line.

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,

8 Can I piggyback on that, by asking a question? When you talk about the number of  
9 acres you need, later in the packet or within this packet I think Glenn makes a very  
10 important point, if you look at each of these functions discreetly they need X amount of  
11 space because they have support, functions or the rooms that are needed. If you look at  
12 them being co-located or more efficiently designed from the way they are designed now  
13 in the buildings that they're in, is there any reduction in acreage by the virtue of looking  
14 at, you know, restrooms, conference rooms, locker rooms, et cetera being more  
15 common space areas, being more efficiently currently designed as opposed to  
16 discreetly designed?

17  
18 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

19 Those are areas certainly that we're going to look at in design. Where we have  
20 duplication we would get away from that, but as far as getting a space that's large  
21 enough...

22  
23 Councilmember Praisner,

24 It's still a significant amount of space, but I just worry about you making judgments that  
25 go forward without looking at that piece first.

26  
27 Edgar Gonzalez,

28 Ms. Praisner, that's an outstanding point that you make. And we took that into  
29 consideration because when we went at it not knowing what was available, without  
30 creating a major service park, a public service park, we even considered that we would  
31 take into account whereby we provide some baby-sitting facilities, some day care  
32 facilities at this location if we accumulate all of our Ride On bus drivers and MCPS bus  
33 drivers, we have a great opportunity. Then you start looking at the reality of what's  
34 available and you say well, nice idea, but...

35  
36 Councilmember Praisner,

37 Yeah, I know and you're not there anymore, but you are looking at multiple DPWT  
38 functions.

39  
40 Edgar Gonzalez,

41 Absolutely.





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 That can be more efficiently designed that's my only point.

4  
5 Edgar Gonzalez,  
6 And we agree.

7  
8 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
9 We will do that.

10  
11 Edgar Gonzalez,  
12 We agree with that.

13  
14 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
15 Also another point here with that location, it's very much compatible with the ideas of the  
16 detention folk of having some kind of facility there that's not going to be somewhat  
17 threatening to the detention center. We'll have a government facility there that would not  
18 provide any kind of threat to them.

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,  
21 I'm sure Mr. Hannah where he's sitting here would have a different view without a  
22 signature site, but I think the reality is that it's less visible than it might be as a signature  
23 site.

24  
25 Councilmember Knapp,  
26 What's the current master plan recommendation for that site?

27  
28 Edgar Gonzalez,  
29 The master plan I think is residential or industrial...

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 No, no. I think it's an I3, but it has language about signature. I don't think it's residential.  
33 It was a signature site.

34  
35 Edgar Gonzalez,  
36 The residential is to the south. The residential is to the south. This is I3 and it has some  
37 environmental constraints and some yeah, so only a certain percentage, in this case  
38 we're talking about a site that is, two sites that are approximately 126 acres in size, and  
39 we're going to use not more than 40 acres. And then we have surrounding area that is  
40 already acquired by Montgomery County will not be developed that encompasses  
41 another 200 or so acres. So all of the environmental restrictions that are placed on the  
42 site we can meet with the accumulation of land that we have surrounding the site. And



May 9, 2006

1 this issue has been met with the Park and Planning Commission and they are accepting  
2 the finding.

3  
4 Councilmember Knapp,  
5 On the imperviousness?

6  
7 Edgar Gonzalez,  
8 Yes.

9  
10 Councilmember Knapp,  
11 Just on the imperviousness.

12  
13 Edgar Gonzalez,  
14 Yes. The impervious area is supposed to be around 15% we're around 13.6%.

15  
16 Councilmember Knapp,  
17 Right. I guess I have quite a few more questions. I guess the most troubling element as  
18 you walk through the list of people you got requirements from; given all the issues we've  
19 had in a certain community in the Upcounty over the course of the last two years that  
20 we didn't actually talk to the community in the course of this process at all. I'm intrigued  
21 by how we didn't think that would be a good idea.

22  
23 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
24 It wasn't that we didn't think that would be a good idea. If you remember this I think  
25 community you're thinking about, the things arose at a time when we had been doing  
26 much of our searching. So, it's not that we didn't, we didn't bring them in. Maybe that's  
27 an oversight, but it wasn't done as a Commission, it was done because at that particular  
28 time that was not a consideration.

29  
30 Edgar Gonzalez,  
31 So and there was also I mean, we didn't say okay, should we go and visit with the  
32 people in that certain community. There wasn't such discussion that we were going to  
33 do it or not do it or whatever. The fact is that we needed a certain amount of space and  
34 they were only, there was only one place where it could be set.

35  
36 Councilmember Knapp,  
37 I'm sympathetic to that and you know, I am and I understand how we're going to have to  
38 try to site this, but the fact that you would designate what would designate as a  
39 signature site in the master plan, over the last two years we've had discussions in  
40 Clarksburg that we have, we did not sit down and say gee maybe we should have this  
41 conversation, because while we're redeveloping all the stuff in Clarksburg but also to



May 9, 2006

1 purchase a signature site and make it a depot, probably is going to raise some  
2 questions.

3  
4 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

5 If I remember correctly, and Edgar correct me if I'm wrong, as we looked at the plans  
6 there is not supposed to be or there is not planned right now for any kind of housing or  
7 anything of that nature that would be opposed to an industrial facility, and where we can  
8 get in and out of there would not be something that would upset, I would think any  
9 particular neighbors that we look at as being a potential there. Did we probably over  
10 look the fact of looking at asking the Clarksburg folk? Yes, we can't say we didn't. If you  
11 would like for us to do that before you approve this, we will do that. But I think that we  
12 did a pretty good job of looking, and looking at the characteristics of the site and then  
13 coming to a conclusion.

14  
15 Councilmember Knapp,

16 Well, all right, I've got a couple more questions. What is the impact -- there has been a  
17 lot of discussion as it relates to the maintenance yard for Corridor Cities transit way.  
18 And looking at the Metropolitan Grove, looking at Shady Grove, various places, what  
19 would the impact of this potential depot be on any decisions the state might be making  
20 as it relates to the siting of that facility?

21  
22 Edgar Gonzalez,

23 This is I would say significantly far away from the CCT alignment all together. This site,  
24 however, could be an official to MTA if they were going to select a busway because  
25 there could be a possibility of co-location. That's why we involved them in the initial  
26 discussions. But the selection is a light rail system, the additional cost of bringing from  
27 the terminal station to this site for repairs would be tremendous and the disruption would  
28 be astronomical.

29  
30 Councilmember Knapp,

31 I guess that's my concern. Since all the jurisdictions along the CCT alignment prefer  
32 light rail and are advocating to the state for light rail if we actually purchase a facility  
33 does it provide an ability for the State to come back and say well you have the space,  
34 let's do bus rapid transit, because you already have the ability for us to locate all the  
35 buses right there?

36  
37 Edgar Gonzalez,

38 Absolutely no. Absolutely no.

39  
40 Councilmember Knapp,

41 Why not?



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Edgar Gonzalez,  
3 Because the alignment.

4  
5 Councilmember Knapp,  
6 For bus rapid transit you just said for light rail. I agree with you light rail can't go up  
7 there. But bus rapid transit you don't have to be right at the end of the line. You could  
8 traverse another mile up the road and park.

9  
10 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
11 You've never looked at anything in that particular area for a staging site for bus rapid  
12 transit. In fact the sites, there are sites further south that they've looked at, some we  
13 agree with some we don't agree with. But I would hope that an activity that's been  
14 postponed and that has been changed as much as the CCT, that we would not hold up  
15 getting something for our Ride On system. As I indicated we continue to push these off  
16 for various reasons and I would hope that they would make a decision on that.

17  
18 Edgar Gonzalez,  
19 And Mr. Knapp, to follow up on Art's remarks, when we query MTA, and they attended  
20 several of our meetings about their need if there was a bus way, all they need is three  
21 acres. Three acres. That is less than 9%, less than 8% of the land that we're talking  
22 about here. To find a site that is three acres in size is a lot simpler than to find a site to  
23 accommodate 40 acres contiguously. So, three-acre sites you can find in Clarksburg  
24 and Germantown. You cannot do that for 40 acres.

25  
26 Councilmember Knapp,  
27 I don't disagree with that assessment except for the fact that I haven't heard much and I  
28 don't think, pick either transit project, one we'll discuss later on the quarter cities and I  
29 don't think anyone comes away with a warm fuzzy as of how the state is going to  
30 proceed with mode selection for any of those, and what's going to be the thing that tilts it  
31 in their particular balance? If this is one less thing they've got to purchase, and it gives  
32 them the opportunity -- we've got to buy something, I recognize that. I'm troubled by the  
33 fact that we didn't talk to the community. I'm troubled by the fact that this provides  
34 potentially another excuse for the state to say hey this could be our signature bus rapid  
35 transit site because we don't have to spend the money for the three acres.

36  
37 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
38 As Edgar said we did have them in conversation and as far as the community is  
39 concerned, sir, as I indicated I'm willing to ask you to defer it and we will then go back  
40 and talk to the community. But we have given them an opportunity and we do look at  
41 the site as being a site that's isolated and would be something that you could put an  
42 Industrial site there, and it would not in a few years have folk complaining that the noise,

20

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 the traffic, the what have you. So I think it's a good site, and I strongly recommend that  
2 we go along with that site.

3  
4 Councilmember Knapp,  
5 Is the site actually going to front route 121? Or is it going to front back out...

6  
7 Edgar Gonzalez,  
8 The site is going to be fronting on Whelan Lane which is the Main access to the  
9 correctional facility. Parts of the site abut against Maryland 121, but we won't be there  
10 because that's part of the area where we cannot build.

11  
12 Councilmember Knapp,  
13 Okay. Page four talks about the signature site and the fact that this area of Clarksburg  
14 can't be developed until stage four in the Clarksburg staging element. As I understand  
15 the requirements for that are primarily because of environmental sensitivity at the Cabin  
16 branch. I guess the question, but then it goes onto say the staging element only applies  
17 to private development not to public use. As I understood it, the biggest criteria was  
18 going to be water quality of that special protection area. So how in the event that the  
19 water tests are such that other development couldn't go forward, how could -- would this  
20 be able to move forward in spite of that?

21  
22 Edgar Gonzalez,  
23 Again, the requirement is for 15% impervious area and we are around 13 plus...

24  
25 Councilmember Knapp,  
26 I'm not talking about impervious. The stage four I believe can't go ahead unless certain  
27 water quality criteria have been met.

28  
29 Edgar Gonzalez,  
30 Water quality criteria?

31  
32 Councilmember Knapp,  
33 Special protection area.

34  
35 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
36 That has to do with the imperviousness, and what we're saying is we are not  
37 contributing to that in terms of the total imperviousness of our site. And our site is below  
38 the 15% impervious cap.

39  
40 Councilmember Knapp,  
41 I know, but as I understand it, they're actually doing testing right now to see before  
42 people can file plans for any of the development that is going to take place in stage four,

21

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its  
form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 there is a potential possibility, as I understand it, that stage four could not even go  
2 ahead if certain water quality eligibility criteria haven't been met.

3  
4 Edgar Gonzalez,

5 Well, I am not aware that that is happening, but I don't think that covers public facilities.

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,

8 Wait a minute Edgar.

9  
10 Councilmember Knapp,

11 And that's, well no, that's one of the issues. I mean, if we can't proceed with stage four  
12 because of environmental sensitivity to then say except for public facilities, calls into  
13 question why we put the requirement out there in the first place.

14  
15 Edgar Gonzalez,

16 Well, that you have to ask yourselves that. You passed that legislation...

17  
18 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

19 You've asked us a question we can't answer right now.

20  
21 Edgar Gonzalez,

22 We'll follow that up for you. We'll send you a reply.

23  
24 Councilmember Praisner,

25 Anything else?

26  
27 Councilmember Knapp,

28 No, I mean I appreciate General Holmes suggestion. I think the community should be  
29 consulted on this. At least to have some presentation. I recognize the importance of  
30 this. I don't disagree with the need for it, but I think we have to include some  
31 participation from the community.

32  
33 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

34 We'll do that. I think we can do that sooner rather than later. But I would, we will do that,  
35 sir.

36  
37 Councilmember Knapp,

38 I mean, I'd make a motion to do that before we include this as part of CIP if that's  
39 possible.

40  
41 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,



May 9, 2006

1 I would ask if you would make it a holding point with us to come back to you at a point  
2 that you could then say yeah or nay. My concern, and it's a general concern as I said in  
3 my opening, is that we continue to find reasons and there are good and sufficient  
4 reasons to move the infrastructure for transit back and back and back. And  
5 consequently we don't have anything. We are looking for parking spaces right now. So,  
6 if there's any such, and I'm not familiar with the process, to go ahead with it, then we will  
7 come back to you. If we have not satisfied you, then you can then you know say we  
8 can't use that space.

9  
10 Councilmember Floreen,  
11 I have a suggestion why don't we add some language in the PDF that's going to require  
12 this process and you can come back to us for money can be expended? If you could  
13 work on that kind of language...

14  
15 Councilmember Knapp,  
16 I think that's fine.

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 Let me say something. Poor old DPWT they have this battle in every place they're  
20 attempting to build infrastructure to support the transit system in particular. And this is  
21 the classic environment which they operate.

22  
23 Councilmember Knapp,  
24 Well, wait. Wait. With all due respect, with all due respect...

25  
26 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
27 I'm fine with putting it into the PDF, we'll do that and we'll satisfy everyone. I want to  
28 move ahead with it. With all due respect.

29  
30 Councilmember Praisner,  
31 We're asking about the community even just being told ahead of time.

32  
33 Councilmember Knapp,  
34 We haven't read an article in the post for the last two years that hasn't had Clarksburg in  
35 it. For us not to consult with the community when this has been a pretty significant issue  
36 about not consulting with the Clarksburg community, I don't think that should be an  
37 issue that should be a real shock for anybody.

38  
39 Councilmember Praisner,  
40 I think, ladies and gentlemen, we have an agreement for some language, and the  
41 Department heads agreeing to that as well. I think we can all take a lesson from  
42 engaging the community ahead of time.





May 9, 2006

Councilmember Knapp,

The only other question I had was as it relates to EMOC. I know this is anticipated to be the Upcounty depot, but we as you indicated there is not a lot of acreage out there any place. As we look at the resiting of the Shady Grove Services Facility. I have not heard of a lot of opportunities out there. I don't know if the requirements that would end up going on this site would includes EMOC or if you look at the build out of Ride On, but it would seem to me that ought to be something that probably gets looked at.

Glenn Orlin,

It assumes EMOC is not only a separate entity but that's in margin to the size the Department still wants to enlarge it to at Shady Grove if it were to stay at Shady Grove. Even if EMOC doesn't get moved it assumes an expansion at Shady Grove, in addition to the current expansion at Brookeville, and these are needs beyond that.

Councilmember Knapp,

I guess my only concern is if I'm the community sitting there that it's the camel's nose under the tent. If we've got a big site and we've already purchased it and it wasn't necessarily for EMOC at the out set but other factors say we can move it now all of a sudden this looks like a place to do it. Not that that's necessarily a bad thing, I just want to be able to tell people we asked that question on the front end, and had that part of the analysis.

Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

To put that in perspective EMOC's relocation and the north depot were always talked to in the same, it was not either/or.

Glenn Orlin,

And we have much bigger problems, even if that were to happen, we'd have much bigger problems than the site being so much bigger intensive. We would have huge dead-heading costs.

Councilmember Knapp,

All right.

Councilmember Floreen,

So we'll add some language to the PDF requiring community consultation before any expenditures and if you can work on that Glen and circulate that.

Glenn Orlin,

Sure.





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Knapp,  
3 And feedback from the implications of the stage four, the Clarksburg staging element.  
4 I'd like to get feedback on what the impact of that would be. Thank you.

5  
6 Councilmember Praisner,  
7 Okay. Next item.

8  
9 Councilmember Floreen,  
10 Next, traffic signal modernization. The T&E recommends approval of the County  
11 Executive's proposal for new project to prepare a program of requirements and systems  
12 design from major upgrade to the traffic signal system.

13  
14 Councilmember Praisner,  
15 I had a question about that, first of all, this is long overdue and I'm very happy to see it  
16 finally here. I would assume that the modernization is also going to deal with the issue  
17 that we now have, which is the signalization changes when you get to a point on a road  
18 like Route 29 where the frequency signal change at one level is you get to phase area  
19 where it's moving from one sequence to another and that causes some challenges with  
20 the system that exists now. I assume it's going to deal with all capacity to make changes  
21 centrally but also fixing the equipment and also providing more capacity for variation?

22  
23 Emil Wolanin,  
24 We're definitely going to try, Ms. Praisner. Some of those issues that you raise though,  
25 congestion, where the geographic breaks along a corridor are and how we might time  
26 one section and other section under different cycles, what we're going to try to do is give  
27 ourselves more flexibility. Some of those natural obstacles are still going to be difficult to  
28 overcome. You can't time your way out of congestion.

29  
30 Councilmember Praisner,  
31 I don't think you can build necessarily your way out either.

32  
33 Emil Wolanin,  
34 That's correct. From an operations perspective the signals timings only work so far. With  
35 the kinds of issues, the limitation the that we have with the existing equipment, the  
36 1970s vintage equipment I think we'll be state of the art and have a lot more flexibility  
37 and also try to deliver some modern day operational strategies.

38  
39 Councilmember Praisner,  
40 It's about time. It's something you and I have talked to for several years. I'm glad the  
41 County Executive is now supporting it. But my other question relates to, I would think



May 9, 2006

1 there is potential for federal funds and grants in this area. We had some in the past on  
2 traffic, advance traffic systems and this obviously would be a function of that.

3  
4 Emil Wolanin,

5 One of the line items in the project for the FY '07 includes \$375,000 worth of a federal  
6 earmark that we applied to this as well as a portion of that to the ATMS CAD ABL. We  
7 are continuing to pursue additional earmarks, although at least in the ITS world, the  
8 earmark days seem to be dwindling away. We are continuing to pursue it along with the  
9 state, the city of Baltimore just did theirs using mainly ITS earmark money, but we  
10 continue to pursue that.

11  
12 Councilmember Praisner,

13 To the extent there will be and I don't think it's necessarily going to be forever, I also  
14 think there may be Homeland Security money that has some relationship to moving  
15 traffic and some of the issues associate with that that may be possible. It's going away  
16 too. But I think we need to look at every way in which this system can from a public  
17 safety and other areas.

18  
19 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

20 When we were with the Congressional delegation we did have it in both of those  
21 categories.

22  
23 Councilmember Praisner,

24 I know that. And I'm glad to see that.

25  
26 Councilmember Floreen,

27 Anything else Ms. Praisner?

28  
29 Councilmember Praisner,

30 Nope, not on that.

31  
32 Councilmember Floreen,

33 Okay, our next item tree preservation, Committee recommends approval of the County  
34 Executive's proposal to add one time expenditure of \$2.3 million in the next fiscal year  
35 for block pruning basically. This will address some of our basic tree maintenance issues  
36 throughout the County.

37  
38 Councilmember Praisner,

39 Well, but I think the packet very clearly states that this is a onetime-only, trees have a  
40 tendency of growing back limbs or branches, and so, it's going to be here today, the  
41 improvement, and gone fast.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Floreen,  
3 Our view is at least let's get started.

4  
5 Councilmember Praisner,  
6 But it's getting started on something that goes away. I'm not opposing the proposal. But  
7 it would be nice if we had a level of funding rather than just a onetime only. That's my  
8 point. When you're tree pruning, it doesn't last very long. Mr. Knapp.

9  
10 Councilmember Knapp,  
11 What does this it do to the backlog the \$2.3 million, what does it reduce it from and to?

12  
13 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
14 That's a one year.

15  
16 Edgar Gonzalez,  
17 This is just a block pruning and the backlog is for emergency tree pruning. It will  
18 address part of the County, but this is a very small compared with the entire County that  
19 we have.

20  
21 Councilmember Knapp,  
22 So it doesn't do a lot. Not that it's something we don't need to do...

23  
24 Edgar Gonzalez,  
25 The backlog is being...

26  
27 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
28 It's out of about 15,000 trees out of about 250,000, but it's a start.

29  
30 Councilmember Floreen,  
31 We probably all have our pet projects. Significant visibility issues and safety issues.  
32 Anything else on this one?

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,  
35 No, no more questions on that.

36  
37 Councilmember Floreen,  
38 Brookeville Service Park. You will recall there have been issues as to how the  
39 Department can address the Brookeville service park without interfering with the Purple  
40 Line yard. They have asked, given the council's direction on this. The last time we  
41 discussed this, they identified the fact that they were going to need some repairs to



May 9, 2006

1 keep it operational for another year and that adds up to \$50,000 which we recommend  
2 approval for.

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,  
5 Okay, keep going Madam Chair.

6  
7 Councilmember Floreen,  
8 Okay, Advanced Transportation Management Systems, this is the kind of thing that we  
9 have discussed over time, have had some difficulty implementing. It will enhance  
10 security for bus operators. It will help with schedule adherence. It will help us keep track  
11 of our buses and ultimately we hope will allow for signal prioritization. They've had some  
12 significant issues about with the system over time. The Committee recommends the  
13 County Executive's proposal to upgrade the system. There is some amount of this that  
14 would be covered by state and federal dollars. And, but the additional County funding is  
15 over \$5 million. Any questions?

16  
17 Council President Leventhal,  
18 Ms. Praisner has a question.

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,  
21 When we're looking at a new system which this is the early stages of that, has there  
22 been any discussion or would there be any discussion with the other bus systems in the  
23 County, such that we're looking at either taking advantage of quantity or other bus  
24 system advanced transportation management needs, namely the school system or  
25 other?

26  
27 Carolyn Biggins,  
28 Well we haven't had discussions with the school system. We have had discussions with  
29 WMATA, who has put in their own AVL system, but it is the same vendor as ours. So  
30 there is a possibility for compatibility, especially, which is critical for us with signal  
31 priority and with the real time information on the sign.

32  
33 Councilmember Praisner,  
34 When we got our 800 megahertz I had requested that the old radios go to the school  
35 system. Obviously I think it's important for us to look at any areas in which they can  
36 work aggressively with the school system. They obviously have a whole fleet and need  
37 to know where those buses are from public safety, for the driver and passengers, but  
38 also for the broader community perspective. And monitoring the locations of the buses. I  
39 think they're working on those issues as well. I just want to urge collaboration to the  
40 extent it's possible.

41  
42 Councilmember Knapp,



May 9, 2006

1 Just so you know, you may be aware of this, Prince George's County actually just  
2 received a large amount of federal funds for this. Cause we're actually going to approve  
3 it next week at TPV for their inclusion in the TIP. So I don't know how they did it, but it  
4 was in excess of \$2 million.

5  
6 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
7 We're getting some. We're getting about 30% federal and state funds for this. This again  
8 was one of those items that we brought to the attention of our delegation our  
9 Congressional delegation. So we are working toward that.

10  
11 Councilmember Knapp,  
12 I don't know how they did it. It wasn't clear. They weren't necessarily willing to share in a  
13 public forum.

14  
15 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
16 I can imagine not.

17  
18 Carolyn Biggins,  
19 We did get a state grant of I think it was \$2.2 million in a state grant for it, and then a  
20 portion of the federal earmarked that Emil alluded to before.

21  
22 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
23 It's two-point, 2.1, about \$2.1 million of it.

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 Okay, parking lot districts. Committee recommends the Capital program for the districts  
27 which is pretty level compared with the previous CIP. There is one addition with respect  
28 to signage in Bethesda.

29  
30 Council President Leventhal,  
31 Ms. Praisner.

32  
33 Councilmember Praisner,  
34 I'm glad that we're going to provide better signage for garage 49, that's been an issue  
35 for some folks. I'm glad that's happening. But I wonder understanding parking districts  
36 function as a separate animal, but to the extent that we're learning from the signage and  
37 graphics in the central business districts, is any of that transferable outside the central  
38 business districts to some of our emerging communities, like Germantown and White  
39 Oak and other areas where better signage would I think be helpful and so I would urge  
40 you to look at that issue to learn from and build from what we have in CBDs. Obviously  
41 you have a lot of folks who are in the central business districts both as pedestrians and  
42 as passengers or as drivers, but I think there are emerging community areas, central



May 9, 2006

1 areas, that may need the same kind of way-find, way-finding I guess is the way it's  
2 described here. Some other areas, and I'd like you to think about that outside the central  
3 business parking lot districts areas.

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 Okay. Next item intersection and spot improvements. CIP issue, we had a recent  
7 request from the DPWT to fund an intersection improvement at Bonifant and Georgia in  
8 Silver Spring. It would add a second lane on eastbound Bonifant that would allow buses  
9 leaving Silver Spring metro bus terminal to stack in separate lanes. This would cost  
10 \$630,000 and be completed in fiscal year '07 consistent with the Silver Spring Transit  
11 Center Project. Questions? No. Next one, annual bike way program. I know Ms.  
12 Praisner wants to talk about the Matthew Henson Trail still?

13  
14 Councilmember Praisner,  
15 Yeah, but I was going to do it at the end of the CIP process and since it's not really a  
16 bike way exclusively I wasn't going to put it here.

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 However, it is whenever you would like to bring it up Ms. Praisner and that would be  
20 fine.

21  
22 Councilmember Praisner,  
23 Let's do it at the end.

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 Basically the Committee recommends adding \$200,000 to the operating budget  
27 reconciliation list to fund several more bike way improvements. And the reason we  
28 basically put it on the operating budget side was to make sure it was on the  
29 reconciliation list, considering the fact that it's going to be competing with a number of  
30 additional projects. The bike advocates have been very loud in their support for moving  
31 forward on a number of initiatives, and so there are a number of candidate projects that  
32 this might fund. That's the proposal. Our next item, a fairly difficult challenge and one  
33 that the Committee struggled with, along with WMATA, and frankly I have to say a work  
34 in progress which is the situation of the Glenmont metro garage. As you will recall, this  
35 is one of our top ranked unfunded state transportation priority. A second garage at the  
36 Glenmont Metro Station. We've already programmed some dollars for the project but  
37 they've not been appropriated. There are two options that have come to us, and I'd like  
38 to say at the outset that this is associated with other decisions to be made. WMATA,  
39 has not taken a final position on this. I was present at their public hearing that was here  
40 two weeks ago or so, and listened to the testimony, but they have not had their decision  
41 on that and that's going to be made in June, Glenn? The WMATA decision? June or  
42 July. This is also associated with another item for us to take up which is the question of



May 9, 2006

1 the relocation of Fire Station 18. And there are strong feelings in the community. There  
2 are strong feelings from the Volunteer Fire Fighters which we freely admit is not an  
3 issue before the T&E Committee, but related to this decision. And there are strong  
4 issues from people who are looking for a place to park at the Glenmont station. Two  
5 proposals that the T&E Committee looked at were one, two billed a five story 930 space  
6 garage over the bus loop adjacent to the existing garage on the east side of Georgia  
7 Avenue. This would require relocation of the bus loop to the side of the east side kiss  
8 and ride, and it would expand the west side kiss and ride lot. The estimated cost of that  
9 initiative is \$21 million. The alternative is to build a six story, 1,200 space garage over  
10 the west side Kiss and Ride lot on the WMATA's triangle parcel. The east side facilities  
11 would remain unchanged. An estimated cost is \$18.7 million. Is Mr. Counihan here? Did  
12 you folks, and is there staff here who have the pictures. I assume there will be  
13 questions. While you're putting those up, some of the background is Glen has ably laid  
14 out for you.

15  
16 Councilmember Praisner,  
17 Slide them that way.

18  
19 Councilmember Floreen,  
20 I don't know if people can see that folks.

21  
22 Councilmember Praisner,  
23 Yeah, that's great.

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 That's the first time I've seen that used in four years. Much better. Beyond the \$3.8  
27 million already programmed \$1.6 million of state aid has been programmed and spent  
28 on planning. The garage would be funded primarily from about \$9.4 million in bond  
29 proceeds in cash from the parking surcharge currently in effect at metro stations. There  
30 is about a current total of \$14.8 million available for the garage. The funding gap would  
31 cost us \$3 million for the west side option and \$6.5 million for the east side option. This  
32 is one of the items that we would proposed be funded through our \$80 million project for  
33 transportation initiatives that we'll take up a bit later. WMATA held a public forum on this  
34 issue on April 26th in this room and there were a number of speakers. As you can  
35 imagine views were divided on every side of the issue. Strong opposition from the folks  
36 who live right adjacent to it. More to the west side. Some significant opposition to having  
37 any additional parking at this location. Advocacy for additional bus service to the  
38 Glenmont station instead. And significant support for the east side. So I believe it would  
39 be accurate to say there was a good divergence of opinion. The Planning Board took  
40 this up. Is anybody here from the Planning Board? If you wants to come on down in  
41 case there are questions. The Planning Board reviewed this matter on April 27th and  
42 recommended the east side. They noted that in the future a parking structure on the





May 9, 2006

1 west side could be constructed if it were part of a mixed use development. They did not  
2 have the other element to this conversation. And as I mentioned earlier, we got this as  
3 an addendum to our agenda today which is the County Executive's proposal for the Fire  
4 Station 18, which as you know is at the intersection of Georgia and Randolph Road  
5 which makes this a very complicated matter involving a lot of moving parts. The County  
6 Executive's recommendation, I think this is going to the Public Safety Committee, when  
7 is it? Thursday? Momentarily.

8  
9 Councilmember Praisner,  
10 I think Thursday.

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 They proposed that a Fire Station 18 also be located on the WMATA Triangle. There is  
14 a belief that shared costs can reduce the ultimate cost of the fire station relocation. This  
15 initiative is important in order to move the intersection work at the corner at the  
16 intersection of Randolph and Georgia. That will need to be removed one way or the  
17 other. Condemnation procedures I believe are underway, and those conversations have  
18 been occurring for several years, is that right? With Kensington number 18 volunteers?  
19 Is that fair to say? So there has been considerable amount of effort going onto put this  
20 puzzle together again. The challenge with this is Park and Planning Commission I do  
21 not believe has commented on the Fire Station 18 issue, is that correct? So this wasn't  
22 before them when they were taking up the issue of the garage. They may not change  
23 their view, I have no idea, but they were not, the timing did not permit them to look at  
24 this in conjunction with, the garage issue in conjunction with the fire station issue at the  
25 same time. I don't know if they would have a different point of view or not. They may  
26 well not. But basically, the Committee recommendation is under the circumstances that  
27 we have a significant need for additional parking at the Glenmont station, that the west  
28 side option offers a considerably more desirable solution in terms of additional spaces  
29 for less money. Then the east side solution would provide. It is of course a concern to  
30 the adjacent neighborhood. The master plan does recommend a rezoning this triangle  
31 and some of the existing neighborhoods, single family detached neighborhood to a  
32 townhouse zone. We noted that that might change a person's view of the compatibility  
33 issues and we ask that WMATA look at some design elements that could be added to a  
34 west side garage that would soften the relationship between the garage and the  
35 community concerns. But the Committee recommendation is to go forward at any point  
36 with the west side option keeping in mind that there is Committee recommendation to  
37 be had on the fire station issue. And certainly things could change based on what the  
38 Council chose to do in that category. So I'll just stop there, and see what questions  
39 there are.

40  
41 Council President Leventhal,





May 9, 2006

1 There are, and I'll call on Ms. Praisner in just a moment. Let me say Madam Chair this is  
2 a tough call as the staff memo indicates. And I come down as the Committee did come  
3 down on the side of the west side option. I'm afraid that this is a situation where the  
4 needs and good of the many out weigh the needs and good of the few. If I lived in that  
5 neighborhood, I'm sure I would not want a second large parking garage constructed.  
6 We've received e-mails from Mr. [McIntire] who is a very vigorous leader on behalf of his  
7 association, I've met with him in the past in Glenmont, and I respect his views, his  
8 message said in essence we should be encouraging the use of mass transit and not  
9 meeting the needs of the automobile. Yes we should, and that's why we're building  
10 another garage at the Glenmont Metro Station. The fact is that folks that leave their cars  
11 at the Glenmont Metro Station will not be driving down further down Georgia, further  
12 down Route 29, further down New Hampshire Avenue, and will not be creating  
13 additional traffic congestion in the most congested and populated part of Montgomery  
14 County. having said that, I acknowledge that the folks that live immediately adjacent are  
15 not pleased about the citing from this, nor as I see from the signs in front of us the siting  
16 of a fire house. Most communities that we hear from generally want close proximity to  
17 the fire house. In this case there seems to be some concern about siting of the fire  
18 house. I acknowledge these are legitimate concerns but additional parking at the end  
19 hub of the Redline is an appropriate move from a standpoint of encouraging the use of  
20 mass transit. If we do not provide additional parking I do not believe those that would  
21 otherwise park at Glenmont Metro, would instead park at Park and Rides in Olney or  
22 Howard County and take the bus. I think instead they would be more likely to drive all  
23 the way to work and not take metro at all if available parking were not there. In addition  
24 the issue of the fire house is extremely important for the timing of the construction of the  
25 Georgia Avenue/Randolph Road interchange which I'm aware the immediately adjacent  
26 neighbors also oppose. And so I have sympathy for that as well. But again, we have a  
27 situation where the needs of the many are considered and we also consider the needs  
28 and the concerns of a few, but the Georgia Avenue/Randolph Road intersection is  
29 among the top three most congested intersections in Montgomery County. It is among  
30 our very highest priorities on our request list to the state of Maryland. But the current  
31 citing of the fire house is an obstacle and must be moved in order to facilitate the  
32 construction of the Georgia Avenue/Randolph Road interchange. If we do not go for the  
33 west side option which facilitates at a very low cost the siting of the Kensington Fire  
34 House, we will delay construction of the Georgia Avenue/Randolph Road interchange  
35 by at least a year and possibly longer. The cost to the County of identifying some other  
36 undetermined site for the relocated fire house will increase substantially, particularly if  
37 we say that the west side triangle will be made available for residential development.  
38 We've all seen how that story goes with a bidding war among residential developers that  
39 drives up the cost of the land far beyond what public facilities can or should compete  
40 with. So, this is not an easy decision. I appreciate the concerns of the neighbors, but I  
41 do believe in the interest of improving mobility throughout eastern Montgomery County  
42 encouraging the use of metro, and facilitating rapid construction of the Georgia



May 9, 2006

1 Avenue/Randolph Road interchange which is one of our highest transportation priorities  
2 the west side siting of this facility is a difficult but appropriate decision. Ms. Praisner.

3  
4 Councilmember Praisner,

5 Well it is a difficult decision, but let's peel the onion a little bit. First of all we start with  
6 the Glenmont master plan which makes recommendations about the east side for an  
7 additional garage structure, not the west side. Secondly, the west side is identified for  
8 community facilities, public facilities as well as housing. One could argue and I'm not  
9 opposed to the siting of a fire station on Georgia Avenue. I think that's a reasonable and  
10 convenient alternative. The challenge is dealing with WMATA, let's be honest. And the  
11 challenge is that that the state has not yet, we may be very creative about funding, but  
12 until the state puts the funding and their piece of the funding up for the great separated  
13 interchange there is no funding for the great separated interchange, full funding.  
14 Whatever the County might do, the reality is that the state's CTP, the state's  
15 consolidated transportation plan has got to include the full funding of it and it doesn't as  
16 yet. I think the Planning Board was trying very hard to parse the issues and both be  
17 consistent with the master plan with the long-term challenges that we face. I disagree  
18 with those who suggest that this money should only be used for a bus way or for other  
19 alternatives. I do agree that this is the end line, end of the line, and therefore needs  
20 additional parking. The master plan makes reference to that and suggests some sites.  
21 We've known for a long time that the fire station had to be moved or the police station or  
22 both at some point. In fact when we modernized, spent some money on modernization  
23 of the police station, I raised that issue as to whether it was cost effective to do that  
24 given site location issues. I even proposed that we should have bought [Hechingers]  
25 before [Hechingers] became a shoppers, to be used for the public safety facilities. That  
26 would have been the most ideal site. And I also think having been told by  
27 representatives of the Volunteer Fire Department that they're not taking a position on  
28 the garage issues. All they were advocating for was the fire station, and to suggest, at  
29 least representatives some of the volunteers, not necessarily the agency, but from the  
30 volunteers said to me that they were not taking a position advocating for east side or  
31 west side. They just know they need another site, and they were not as far as the  
32 garage is concerned. I think WMATA obviously holds the key to all of this as to how  
33 aggressively they might want to move with the comprehensive redevelopment of parcels  
34 that they have for housing or for other issues, but when I come down on all of those  
35 issues, I have to come down with the Planning Board in that the master plan is very  
36 clear about where this garage should be placed and it's on the east side not on the west  
37 side. From a standpoint of traffic impacts to the neighborhoods of what is proposed, I  
38 think there are also questions about what are going to be the impacts down to Flak and  
39 other streets, because of the way this will open up traffic from that perspective and that  
40 was not intended. So my preference is for the east side.

41  
42 Council President Leventhal,



May 9, 2006

1 No other comments Madam Chair.

2  
3 Councilmember Floreen,  
4 Okay.

5  
6 Council President Leventhal,  
7 Does this require a vote or should we assume? Well the Committee recommendation is  
8 approved without objection.

9  
10 Councilmember Praisner,  
11 I would make a motion if there are others who supported it but I got the sense from my  
12 conversations with others that I'm in a minority.

13  
14 Council President Leventhal,  
15 So the record will reflect Ms. Praisner's reservation.

16  
17 Councilmember Floreen,  
18 Absolutely, okay next issue is state road participation, thank you, might as well take  
19 your pictures. Well, others will recall better than actually the T&E Committee, there was  
20 a time when the County committed additional funding to accelerate improvements of  
21 several state highway administration projects, a widening or building state roads. Over  
22 the past 15 years ago, for the past 15 years though the County has withdrawn from that  
23 by in large. There have been some minor projects where the County has contributed to  
24 state projects, but not to any significant degree. We took, we asked the Department and  
25 Glenn to explain this to us, the T&E Committee did in its early sessions on the CIP and  
26 pointed out that taking the list of our significant state transportation priorities that are a  
27 result of our examination of our most congested intersections that it seemed that it was  
28 time to revisit that issue, and to put together a plan that would advance our most  
29 significant problems and projects. The County Executive proposed to do that by his  
30 initiative announced a month or two ago where he proposed an additional \$80 million to  
31 advance some of these projects. Those dollars would be associated with a later years of  
32 the CIP however. The Committee remained concerned about this issue. And then Mr.  
33 Silverman initiated some conversations with the Department of Finance as to what kind  
34 of revenue sources might be available out there that would allow us to double that  
35 commitment. Ms. Praisner indicates that MFP has some issues with that and we can  
36 talk about that. But the initiative for us was to say what are our highest priority projects?  
37 And how can we get them moving? So if the County Council agrees with the funding  
38 source, what the Committee recommends is that we advance a variety of projects with  
39 the coming fiscal year '07 that are significant where the state has already invested some  
40 dollars or are our highest priority issues. The Committee recommendation is to show  
41 dollars in later years in the other two years of the CIP that would be supported by this  
42 revenue source and be subject though to appropriation based only on an agreement



May 9, 2006

1 with the state as to how we could share those costs appropriately. Basically put our  
2 money on the table and start negotiation. What the Committee recommendation would  
3 be then as recommended by staff is the following: Change the Executive's proposed  
4 PDF on this subject to state transportation participation. And note that the fund  
5 something for both state and WMATA's projects. We note that those projects eligible for  
6 funding under this initiative are from the most recent joint priority letter signed by the  
7 Council and the County Executive. Next initiative would be to program an additional  
8 \$76,084,000 in the first three years. First on that list would be funding the nearly, the  
9 \$3.9 million associated with the Glenmont metro garage. We would also appropriate \$5  
10 million to WMATA for the design of the southern entrance to the Bethesda Metro. We  
11 would program \$8.2 million for MDOT for land acquisition and utility relocation at the  
12 Georgia Avenue/Randolph Road interchange, and \$2.4 million to MDOT for the design  
13 of the I-270 Watkins Mill Road interchange. This would commit \$15.6 million in fiscal '07  
14 for the highest priority projects that need funding in '07 to keep them from falling behind.  
15 The Bethesda metro southern entrance while not precisely on our list of state priority  
16 projects is basically included within the Purple Line commitment that this Council has  
17 made for a number of years. So we consider that part of the Council's initiative. So that  
18 is the proposal to advance. I'm going to leave it actually to Mr. Silverman to discuss the  
19 funding resource and Mr. Orlin to address, answer any further questions. Tim is out of  
20 town!

21  
22 Glenn Orlin,  
23 Tim is out of town.

24  
25 Councilmember Silverman,  
26 I'm going to defer to Ms. Praisner's comments first.

27  
28 Council President Leventhal,  
29 Okay, Ms. Praisner.

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 The concept that we discussed in the management of fiscal policy Committee, I don't  
33 know whether Mr. Firestine is coming or not, but the concept is to use Revenue Bonds,  
34 and the source of funding for Revenue Bonds would be Liquor Department revenue.  
35 Conceptually that is a clear way of having a fund source. The issues, the number one  
36 issue related to this year is the fact that the Executive has used the surplus from the  
37 liquor fund of \$1.1 million to fund the operating budget. So in order to initiate this  
38 project, we would have to find \$1.1 million in other funding sources to fund the operating  
39 budget that exists when the County Executives sent it over, because he used this  
40 money already. The second piece is that these Revenue Bonds would have to be paid  
41 back each year. And so the debt service on them increases each year \$3.9 million, then  
42 almost \$6 million beyond for the 20 years of the bond. And I gather the proposal is to do



May 9, 2006

1 this \$80 million in two, \$40 million increments. So the first amount is only based on the  
2 debt service, that 5.7, almost \$4 million, et cetera, is only related to the \$40 million.  
3 Whether we can, right?

4  
5 Glenn Orlin,  
6 No, the \$1.1 in '07 is related to the \$40 million. 2.8 of the 3.9 in '08.

7  
8 Councilmember Praisner,  
9 The 3.9 and the six.

10  
11 Council President Leventhal,  
12 Could you let Dr. Orlin finish his sentence?

13  
14 Councilmember Praisner,  
15 I'm sorry.

16  
17 Glenn Orlin,  
18 Right, there is two issues, each tranche involves \$1.1 million in the years.

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,  
21 Tranches.

22  
23 Glenn Orlin,  
24 I don't know how to spell that.

25  
26 Council President Leventhal,  
27 T-R-A-N-C-H.

28  
29 Glenn Orlin,  
30 \$1.1 million in the first year, 2.8-2.85 in that range for the second year and every year  
31 thereafter. So if you do just one tranche it's 1.1 in '07, 2.8-2.5 from that point on. If you do  
32 a second tranche then it's 1.1 in addition in '08 and another 2.8 in '09 it would stagger.

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,  
35 The bottom line is we're committing ourselves each year to about \$6.6 million.

36  
37 Councilmember Praisner,  
38 No.

39  
40 Council President Leventhal,  
41 By starting FY '09 it would be \$5.7 million. \$5.7 million each year for the 20-year life of  
42 the bond. And that would stay constant.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Glenn Orlin,

3 According to Mr. Firestine's table, it goes up and down a little bit, but it's within a couple  
4 hundred thousand dollars.

5  
6 Councilmember Praisner,

7 There are two issues though that the Management and Fiscal Policy Committee  
8 discussed. One relates obviously to this year, and that you've got to find a back fill of  
9 money. The second is an issue associated with the liquor fund, and it may only be a  
10 technicality, but it is an issue. The Attorney General, the current Attorney General has  
11 ruled that the liquor fund exclusively is the control of the County Executive, in that the  
12 Council really has no role in the liquor fund. So although the Executive needs our  
13 approval to appropriate the money he makes the exclusive determination of the use of  
14 the money. So we need in my view a formal request or statement from the County  
15 Executive in order to avoid any future technical problems with the bonds or bond  
16 holders or any legal challenge from a future County Executive, who will be encumbered  
17 by this responsibility that the County Executive supports and requests this process. That  
18 will cover us from any legal challenge in the future, because then a County Executive in  
19 the future would have to set aside those funds for this purpose in the future.

20  
21 Council President Leventhal,

22 So, we'll hope that Director Holmes takes that message back to the County Attorney  
23 and to the County Executive.

24  
25 Councilmember Praisner,

26 I think I've communicated it to Mr. Firestine as well. I know it may be belts and  
27 suspenders, but it just seems to me that when you have a new County Executive when  
28 you have a current Attorney General opinion, and you have a need for this money to be  
29 directed this way with bond holders expecting their debt to be paid, repayments that we  
30 better have the belts and suspenders. The only other issue that I personally have and I  
31 don't know how my colleagues, oh, I think Mr. Denis made similar comments, when we  
32 issue bonds, we identify the source, the rational for the use of those bonds. At this point  
33 in time what we're saying is our general intent on these projects because as I  
34 understand it, they require the partnership from the state because we're not fully funding  
35 the project. The state would be contributing, and the state again consolidated  
36 transportation program is closed for right now I guess. And will not be identify until the  
37 fall, the September, October, November time period when they do their road shows. So,  
38 there are, I think, some issues that we need to identify within either the PDF or how  
39 we're doing these projects where we're showing them that says that it is our intent, but  
40 we need to be as specific as possible and the bonds can't be sold unless you get the  
41 specific funding approval from the state as I understand it.





May 9, 2006

Glenn Orlin,

The proposal from the Committee would be part of that. For the first \$40 million tranche which would be the only bonds issued in '07, \$19 million of that is for things specific which are listed, but the other \$20 million isn't.

Councilmember Praisner,

My problem is I don't think you can issue bonds in that loose way and we need to have that specificity because the other source of funding for these projects is state money. Right?

Councilmember Floreen,

Ms. Praisner, we appreciate that point, and would understand that you know, this conversation will have to be had. They will have to be reached and we'll have to satisfy those kinds of requirements before they can be certainly can be issued.

Councilmember Praisner,

Well I think it's important before folks start to wave flags, press releases and other things highlighting what it pays for.

Council President Leventhal,

Too late for that. You can't call them back.

Councilmember Silverman,

Recalling the press release.

Councilmember Praisner,

Let's just be clear. Let's just be clear, no ribbons can be cut, no bonds can be issued, no matter what folks may want to do before September, nothing can be issued until all of this is clear. So any highlighting of projects, it ain't a project until the state says it's a project. They're putting their money on it and we can't issue any bonds until that's all clear. I think those are not just technicalities, it's very important when you're talking about bond ratings, when you're talking about bonds which are not going to be triple "A", they're "B" or "C" bonds. Triple "B" bonds, they're going to pay more in interest this way. We need to be clear so the public understands while we're doing the headlines and the press releases that there is a big asterisk and fine print in all of this.

Council President Leventhal,

Let me be clear Ms. Praisner, because you're caveats are very helpful, but I'm concerned that some watching will take away from this that either we're not getting enough benefit or we're embarking on something that's very risky. Which, I believe "A" we are going to get substantial, but no, it's not what you said.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 That's not what I said.  
4

5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 Thank you I think it's important to emphasize that. If you do the math, and we might as  
7 well do it real quick if Dr. Orlin would get his calculator out. If you figure we're going to  
8 pay an average of \$6 million, up, down depending on the niceties of the amortization  
9 schedule, but it's about an average of about \$6 million a year over about 20 years, with  
10 interest we will pay \$120 million over 20 years for \$80 million of traffic relief in the near  
11 term. That's how bonds work, that's what you get. If the figure the time value money and  
12 you figure the time value of fewer people sitting in traffic in this decade, versus the  
13 amortization of the bonds over 20 years, to me it's a good deal. It's a clear public benefit  
14 even if the bonds aren't the same bonds that we use for the general obligations of the  
15 rest of County government. To me as I thought through this, and I had to think through it  
16 too, it was a new concept, it was presented to us in a press conference and we learned  
17 about it later, all of us have had to sort of reason it through and get advice and talk to  
18 people and figure out whether it's prudent and whether it's wise, I've come to the  
19 conclusion that it is. In addition, it has been done in other jurisdictions, both the  
20 Revenue Bonds have been done other under other circumstances, but most importantly  
21 the negotiations with the state has been done by other counties. Montgomery County is  
22 not the first to say to the state, look, we're tired of waiting, we're ready for traffic relief  
23 now. We'll put up a larger share of County dollars now in return for more state dollars  
24 now. By entering with the leverage agreement with the state of Maryland we get more  
25 help interest the state of Maryland now, assuming the state agrees, which is what Ms.  
26 Praisner's point was. Until the state says yes we have a deal, we don't have a deal. But  
27 there is precedent for this in Howard County on Route 29, on Maryland Route 100, in  
28 Baltimore County in Carol County. So we're not really breaking new ground here. We've  
29 been kind of holding back as other County's address their traffic problems. Saying well  
30 we're just going to spend County dollars on County roads, and we're going to try to  
31 make the state cough up what it owe us, and the reality is the state like the County has  
32 far more commitments than it has dollars to meet those commitments, and the history  
33 with the state has been they've been glad to enter into these discussions with Counties,  
34 and willing to put more state money in knowing they're leveraging state dollars for a  
35 larger return of traffic relief in the near term, which the state also has its objective.  
36 Putting partisanship aside, or whether we're pleased with any given administration in the  
37 state, the state too has as its mission traffic relief, and the states too wants to leverage  
38 its limited dollars for a greater outcome in traffic relief. So after much thought, I've come  
39 to the conclusion that I think this is in the public interest. Mr. Silverman.  
40

41 Councilmember Silverman,





May 9, 2006

1 Thank you Mr. President. A couple comments, okay so no surprise, we still have a  
2 traffic congestion problem in Montgomery County. The question is what are we doing  
3 about it? I know, we didn't end grid lock yet. We said we were going to try. Well, we're  
4 going to make some big strides here. The reason is there is multiple parties that need to  
5 be at the table. The state, the federal government and local government. We're putting  
6 local dollars in, we have been putting local dollars in. We already broke ground. I think  
7 somebody owes a lunch on this, Mr. Perez. For the Montrose Parkway, but the question  
8 that's being asked about, the question I get asked about the Montrose Parkway is well,  
9 that's great, but what does it link to? The answer is it links to the number one priority  
10 that we have which is at the local level, which is the 355 Montrose Road Interchange,  
11 but guess what? Very expensive project. The state is supposed to be doing this. The  
12 state is failing in its obligation to build road and transit projects in Montgomery County.  
13 We give credit to the Governor for those of us who support the inter-county connector  
14 for moving forward, but all of us who support the ICC have always said it is only a piece  
15 of a big puzzle of solving traffic congestion relief here. And the challenge really I don't  
16 think is the unwillingness of the people who are actually in the trenches at the state level  
17 on these issues. The challenge is a very simple one, the Governor and the General  
18 Assembly have to put money into the transportation trust fund. Now the analogy I would  
19 use is school construction. For the first two years, actually for the first three years this  
20 Governor chose not to put significant money into school construction. The General  
21 Assembly led by a lot of folks from Montgomery County ended up putting money in for  
22 school construction and so now we're getting more of our fair share. This year the  
23 Governor proposed more, the General Assembly added more and we're getting school  
24 construction money. What's been missing for years and years has been expansion of  
25 the pot of money available for transportation projects. Projects which the folks at the  
26 state level who are involved in this would love to get moving on if they just had the  
27 green light so to speak to move forward. What are we going to do about this? I'm  
28 troubled by the fact that these are state obligations and a perception may be created,  
29 well, Montgomery County is going to go ahead and let the state off the hook. I don't see  
30 us letting the state off the hook, but I think it's important for all of us to recognize that as  
31 we have seen with so many other programs, whether they're capital items or operating  
32 budget, I mean Ms. Praisner sat on the Health and Human Services Committee for  
33 several years and we had a great debates and discussions about back filling state  
34 programs for child welfare and other things that were state obligations at the end of the  
35 day we're all stuck in traffic congestion, our constituents are stuck in traffic congestion,  
36 and we can't simply sit back and say well that's a state problem, go down Route 50 and  
37 beat up on the Governor and General Assembly any longer. We're kind of stuck in  
38 traffic, but we're stuck if we don't move forward with a solution that we can put on the  
39 table. I completely agree with Ms. Praisner that we have got to have a cooperation with  
40 the state before monies are spent on these road projects in particular. I commend the  
41 County Executive for taking the first step by finding \$80 million in bond capacity for the  
42 last three years to take the first step forward in that and what we're talking about here is,

41

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 Okay, that's great but what do we do over the next three years since we can't seem to  
2 get the Governor and the General Assembly to expand the transportation trust fund.  
3 The answer is we use a very creative solution to fund Revenue Bonds as Mr. Leventhal  
4 said, Revenue Bonds are not a new idea, they're not a new idea for us. We funded the  
5 wonderful new swim center in Germantown using Revenue Bonds. That was an  
6 initiative of previous Councilmember Nancy Dacek and myself, and this is an  
7 opportunity to do the same thing. The wrinkle comes in with the liquor fund which I  
8 would give I immense kudos to Tim Firestine, who simply said well we need a stable  
9 source and this is a stable source of revenues and as Ms. Praisner said it means we  
10 have to number one backfill a million-one this year which I'm confident we'll be able to  
11 find in the mix of our end game in putting together a \$4 billion budget. And yes we are  
12 committing to future obligations, which is in effect, what we do every time we put our  
13 capital budget together, we're just committing to a different revenue source than the  
14 general tax dollars. The bottom line here is we have an opportunity to take a great leap  
15 forward in relieving traffic congestion in Montgomery County with the state as a partner.  
16 Would we like them to be doing it at 100% level? Sure. But we can't wait any longer and  
17 we can't explain to the public why we would be waiting any longer when we have the  
18 ability and creativity to end grid lock. So a long way of saying I appreciate Nancy  
19 Floreen's leadership on this. I appreciate the County Executive's leadership when he  
20 release the his budget and I think we've got some real creative opportunities to entice  
21 the state to do the right thing and to relief traffic congestion in Montgomery County. We  
22 can go a long way with this proposal. Thank you Mr. President.

23  
24 Council President Leventhal,

25 Well, thank you Mr. Silverman, I just wanted to amend something I said earlier, because  
26 I think it actually understates the benefit here. The state has many demands with limited  
27 resources, the state will wait to program a project for which it must provide 100% of the  
28 dollars. That's not because the state is biased against this jurisdiction or any other  
29 jurisdiction, it is simply because the state has limited resources and many projects in the  
30 docket. If the state has the potential to leverage its dollars with local dollars and do  
31 more sooner it will be more likely to provide its own dollars as it has done in other  
32 jurisdictions. So when I said that \$6 million of County expenditures each year over 20  
33 years is \$120 million in County expenditures over 20 years with \$80 million of benefit in  
34 the near term, in fact the benefit will be substantially greater because we will leverage  
35 state dollars that otherwise we would not get. It depends on the funding ratio that we  
36 negotiate with the state on a project by project basis. If you assume which is a very  
37 optimistic assumption, but if you assume each of these projects were at a 50/50 ratio,  
38 the benefit of \$120 million in paying off these bonds over 20 years would be \$160  
39 million in total benefits in traffic relief over the next few years. \$160 million in near term  
40 benefit for \$120 million in bond service over the next 20 years, because we're not just  
41 getting the benefit of the \$80 million in County bond revenue we're getting the benefit of  
42 the additional leveraged state dollars that wouldn't be available to us under other

42

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 circumstances. Let's also be cautious about using campaign slogans here, I mean there  
2 will always be traffic, and we set ourselves up when we promise to end a condition that  
3 is a permanent condition. I'm aware that, I'm well aware of the history of the slogan, but  
4 we're going to provide traffic relief, this is a good proposal. We're going to get hundreds  
5 of millions of dollars of benefit in the near term for a creative financing mechanism  
6 which is responsible, and which has been used before. Let's be careful about slogans,  
7 because if you over promise, and you lead people to think that there'll never be traffic in  
8 the Washington Metro Area, we set ourselves up for disappointment. There will always  
9 be traffic, traffic will always be with us. Mr. Andrews followed by Ms. Praisner.

10  
11 Councilmember Andrews,

12 Thank you Mr. President. I like this list of projects very much. I like adding an entrance  
13 to get the Purple Line going at Bethesda. I like moving forward with the interchange at  
14 355 Montrose, the Glenmont Metro Garage, the Georgia/Randolph interchange, I-270  
15 Watkinsville interchange, The Woodfield Road widening, the Brookeville bypass, The  
16 Georgia/Norbeck interchange, and the Clopper Road widening. These are all projects  
17 that we need, and they will provide some traffic relief and provide choices to people that  
18 don't have as good a choice as they need to get around. The Purple Line in particular  
19 will provide an alternative to the belt way when that is constructed, and connect the  
20 spokes of the red line of the Metro, and other spokes of the Metro. So that we have a  
21 circumferential system, going from Bethesda to New Carrollton. Allowing people to take  
22 the Metro to Bethesda and then get over to College Park in a more direct way. I  
23 remember back in 1994 taking a walk with Harry Sanders who is I see sitting in the  
24 audience showing me, in purple, he almost always has purple on. Who took me on a  
25 tour of the planned route for the Purple Line, Harry has kept at it year after year. That is  
26 what it takes to build a number of these projects. So, I enthusiastically support moving  
27 forward with these projects. I like the fact that unlike the ICC, none of these is a \$7 a  
28 day toll road. I like the fact that unlike the ICC, none of these add traffic to our beltway in  
29 Montgomery County, and that you can build all of those projects for no more, and  
30 probably less, and that includes the entire Purple Line, for less than the cost of the ICC.  
31 Unfortunately the reason we are having to put this amount of our County money into  
32 state projects is because the ICC is taking so much of limited state funds. And the  
33 Governor has proposed in fact mortgaging the state's transportation future to that  
34 highway and having it consume close to 20% of future federal funding for the next 20  
35 years. Actually next 15 years, and so I am pleased that we are going to move forward  
36 with these projects and leverage some dollars, but I think we have to put it in context as  
37 to why we are in this situation that we have to do that. And there's no question though  
38 that these are projects that will benefit many of our constituents. They will provide more  
39 choices to people, both roads and transit, and that's critical. We heard earlier in the day  
40 from General Holmes that the transit uses up 9% this year from last year, and that's  
41 good news, and I think it's partly due to the expanded transit options that we are  
42 providing, and also more recently to the price of gasoline. So, I do think that we're going

43

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 to see more and more people want to use transit and the more accessible, affordable,  
2 and convenient we can make it to our residents, the more we will see those numbers go  
3 up. And we're going to talk a little later about a proposal that I put forward to provide  
4 free Ride On service to seniors and people with disabilities during midday weekday  
5 hours to encourage more use during those hours, during times when many if facilities  
6 are open to seniors, and that may have a benefit of freeing up some rush hour seats  
7 that some people don't have the flexibility to... to free up seats that some people need  
8 during rush hour only. So, this is an excellent list. I think it is important to move forward  
9 with it. But I do think it has to be put in context of why we're taking this significant  
10 funding action that we might not have to take if the state weren't putting so much of its  
11 funds into one project that actually exacerbates our beltway traffic in Montgomery  
12 County.

13  
14 Council President Leventhal,  
15 Ms. Praisner.

16  
17 Councilmember Praisner,  
18 I guess it's my responsibility as the Chair of the Management and Fiscal Policy  
19 Committee to make sure we cross our T's and dot I's. These are candidate projects at  
20 this point, they are not projects that are funded until the state agrees with us, as I  
21 understand it. And the bonds are ready to be sold with the identified projects. I think  
22 they are an excellent list. I don't oppose the concept we are going forward with. I just  
23 want to make sure we understand what we are doing today and what we are not doing  
24 today. What we are doing today is putting \$1.1 million on the reconciliation list as a  
25 negative that has to be filled, and we are identifying our intent to pursue this initiative.  
26 We cannot fund these projects until the state, except for I guess the forward funding of  
27 the Montrose Interchange, because that is already funded. That is already in the CTP,  
28 isn't it? It's only a different year.

29  
30 Glenn Orlin,  
31 What you would be doing \$1.1 million in the reconciliation list, that's correct, and the CIP  
32 project is approved. You would be appropriate rating \$19 million for these four projects.

33  
34 Councilmember Praisner,  
35 They can't be spent. The bonds can't be sold, and they can't be spent until the state  
36 okays...

37  
38 Glenn Orlin,  
39 No, that's not true. \$19 million could be spent period. Now, I would think that the state  
40 did not want to accept the \$8.2 million in '07 for the Georgia Avenue/Randolph  
41 Interchange, the \$2.4 million for the I-270/Watkinsville Interchange, if there's not an



May 9, 2006

1 agreement to be reached for them to take our money, then yes, you're right, but I can't  
2 see that happening.

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 We have a PDF on circle 97 Ms. Praisner.

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,  
8 Yeah, I've seen that...

9  
10 Councilmember Floreen,  
11 ...to address those, to be clear about that.

12  
13 Glenn Orlin,  
14 It doesn't commit any funds beyond the \$19 million.

15  
16 Councilmember Praisner,  
17 Right, but committed for those projects, not all those projects have all of the state  
18 funding. Some of them have not even been fully designed, and the land has not been  
19 acquired for those projects. Some of which the state is already in acquisition, but at the  
20 grade separated interchange at Norbeck, there is no acquisition that has gone forward.  
21 So, the point is, each of these projects is in different stages as far as the state is  
22 concerned. And it's how they appear in the state's consolidated transportation program,  
23 so to suggest that they go forward automatically is not accurate either. That's the point  
24 I'm trying to make.

25  
26 Glenn Orlin,  
27 Right, they wouldn't going to completion automatically.

28  
29 Councilmember Praisner,  
30 Right, they would not necessarily go to completion. The only one that would, that I know  
31 of is the one dealing with Montrose, because of their timing and maybe one other.

32  
33 Glenn Orlin,  
34 Not even that, because the Montrose 55 interchange, the state has the money it needs  
35 through FY '07. There's no money in here specifically for that.

36  
37 Councilmember Praisner,  
38 I would like a list of each of those projects we are funding so the public clearly  
39 understands the status of the project and what the County's funding would do, and what  
40 is required by the state before the project can go forward to construction.

41  
42 Glenn Orlin,





May 9, 2006

1 To completion of construction?

2  
3 Councilmember Praisner,

4 Completion, just so folks understand, because, again, I support what we're doing, but I  
5 want to make sure folks understand because it involves a new County Executive,  
6 potentially a new Governor, and a new Department at transportation. When it comes to  
7 what happens with these projects and the state.

8  
9 Glenn Orlin,

10 I will give you that list, but the one project that would go to completion would be the  
11 Glenmont Garage.

12  
13 Council President Leventhal,  
14 Mr. Perez.

15  
16 Councilmember Perez,

17 Very briefly I was also in support of this in the Committee and continuing to be in  
18 support of it for two primary reasons. Number one: it does help us to jump start the  
19 Purple Line, which if we had a different Governor we would have broken ground in 2005  
20 and we would have been moving people by 2008. That is for me the most tangible  
21 ramification of the election results in '0, and my most tangible frustration from that result.  
22 So, if we can get ourselves a little bit closer, that's progress. Secondly, I'm excited about  
23 this because I believe it's \$40 million next year in '07, and that will bring the '07 total  
24 transportation capital program to the '06 level. The '06 level was \$179 million, the  
25 proposed budget that the County Executive sent over had a reduction of \$37 million in  
26 FY '07 to \$142 million in spending on transportation. And if we add \$40 million it  
27 basically gets us back to where we were in FY '06. So I think it's useful to understand  
28 where we've been and where the proposal was and where this gets us back to. The  
29 proposal for fiscal year '08 is \$130 million in the Capital Program. This would get us up  
30 to \$170 million which would mean that FY '08 would be \$10 million less than FY '06.  
31 That's better than \$50 million less than FY '06, but at least gets us back to level funding  
32 at a minimum. So, I'm happy that we are at least able to reach the point of level funding  
33 given that the budget that the Executive sent over for transportation was actually  
34 substantially less, not only in real dollars, but in nominal dollars as well. So, those were  
35 the two reasons I support this.

36  
37 Council President Leventhal,  
38 Mr. Silverman.

39  
40 Councilmember Silverman,

41 Thank you Mr. President, just briefly two things. First of all, I certainly don't want to be  
42 remiss, particularly since I see so many friends out there, in saying the beauty of this



May 9, 2006

1 very creative proposal is that we are going to get a jump start on the Purple Line.  
2 Notwithstanding the fierce opposition of this Governor, and hopefully we will be sending  
3 a very clear message to the public that we are continuing our commitment, and actually  
4 putting our money where our mouth is in terms of support for the Purple Line. Secondly,  
5 I just wanted to pick up on something that my good friend, the President of the Council  
6 said. I think there's a difference between grid lock and traffic congestion, I don't want to  
7 parse words, but grid lock is when you can't move, traffic congestion hey, there's a  
8 bunch of cars on the road. We have had grid lock for a long time, and without getting  
9 into campaign slogans or electioneering. The fact of the matter is we are going to  
10 relieve traffic congestion with this proposal. That's what the goal is. Are we going to go  
11 back to the days when there were no cars on the road? I don't think so, but this is a  
12 piece of traffic congestion relief which is absolutely critical. And the final point, I guess  
13 is, I hope we are going to be able to negotiate an agreement at some point with this  
14 Governor or a new Governor for a state participation. Because I believe that Mr.  
15 Leventhal is absolutely correct. There's a big difference between the state looking at a  
16 funding schedule where they've got to pick up a 100% of the tab versus some type of a  
17 participation. I think that we need to be continuing to think not only in this area, but in  
18 area others, way outside the box to figure out how we can leverage federal, state,  
19 private sector dollars to support programs and initiatives. We certainly do it in other  
20 areas whether it's schools or Health and Human Services and recreation centers, and  
21 it's great we are move forward, I hope, in engaging the state in that type of creative  
22 thinking. Thank you.

23  
24 Councilmember Floreen,  
25 Anybody else?

26  
27 Council President Leventhal,  
28 Mr. Knapp.

29  
30 Councilmember Knapp,  
31 Hate to be left out. No, I just want to thank, I support this proposal, and I thank Mr.  
32 Silverman and Ms. Floreen for putting it in front of us. As current Chair of the  
33 Transportation Planning Board, it's clear that local governments are doing as we have,  
34 yes, all over the region are stepping up and trying to fill the transportation needs. And I  
35 agree with Mr. Silverman that we do need to think more creatively, but I don't want to  
36 make it too easy for folks either. At some point you actually just have to be committed to  
37 transportation. Every poll, every person you talk to, I don't care where you are,  
38 transportation is one, two, or three as what's the most important issue. And so yes, we  
39 need to think creatively of how to get this done. This is important as a local government  
40 to prime the pump, because that apparently that's the only thing getting transportation  
41 funded anywhere in this region. And so I think this is a great step forward for us. I  
42 appreciate Ms. Praisner's recommendations, or realization that this won't solve all the





May 9, 2006

1 problems, that we do have to understand what the state commitment is going to be. But,  
2 this clearly is falling to local governments, be it roads, advocacy for transit. Doesn't  
3 make a difference, we're the ones doing the job right now and all the heavy lifting. And  
4 we can talk about campaign slogans, but the reality is, the electorate needs to begin to  
5 recognize where the resources need to be coming from. The notion of the creativity is  
6 important, but we really just have to have a commitment to transportation, and we need  
7 to hold people's feet to the fire. We talk about it, talk in nice fuzzy terms, and we say  
8 we're for this or that, but the reality is when it comes time to put your money where your  
9 mouth is, the places that actually are supposed to write those resources don't really do  
10 it. If we can prime the pump to get this done, I think it's great, and I think we need to  
11 probably have more conversations at our local level to see how we can with our regional  
12 colleagues to fund different projects. One thing we are looking at through TPB this year  
13 is come up with ways to incent more of those conversations to occur. I've said this at  
14 TPB before, we just did an aerial congestion survey, they do this every three years.  
15 Where it highlights the 10 most congested areas in the region, and then I asked if we  
16 can take the constrained long range plan for the region and overlay that on where the  
17 10 most congested areas are. Of the 10 most congested areas, only three actually have  
18 any resources for real transportation improvements to take place. The other seven are  
19 in study and have been in study for the last 10 years or so.

20  
21 Council President Leventhal,  
22 How many of the 10 are in Montgomery County?

23  
24 Councilmember Knapp,  
25 I think three of them are, and so clearly, if we leave it at this high level discussion, it's  
26 not getting any place, and so I think it's a great step forward for us. It doesn't solve  
27 every problem. But at least begins to say we are as we have over the last three and a  
28 half years, we are committed to it, we're willing to put our money where our mouth is,  
29 and we're going to try to get the job done. Now let's hope that the folks who are actually  
30 supposed to be spending the money can step up and play with us too.

31  
32 Council President Leventhal,  
33 Excellent, I also, of course, want to acknowledge the good work of the coalition to build  
34 the Purple Line, and it's extraordinarily diverse, philosophically diverse membership.  
35 And I just want to say the inclusion in this package of the proposal for the south  
36 entrance of the Bethesda Metro is a really cool example of citizen activist influencing us  
37 here. I know that Dr. Orlin had a number of conversations with some of the leadership,  
38 with Harry Sanders and Ben Ross and Jim Clark and Webb Smedley, and with the  
39 Bethesda/Chevy Chase Chamber, which has been very involved in this, and Michele  
40 Cornwell, the Chair of that organization is here. Ann Ambler, the President of the Sierra  
41 Club, or Chair, I'm not sure what her title is. Montgomery County group, so this was  
42 something that when it was originally proposed was a little transit light and became



May 9, 2006

1 heavily emphasized in transit as a result of the advocacy of this excellent organization,  
2 which several of us here have a heavy hand in founding and are glad to participate in.  
3 So, congratulations to the coalition to build the Purple Line, it's a great example of  
4 successful advocacy. And now Chairwoman Floreen.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,

7 Okay, I think it would be fair to say that we've listened and we are delivering here. I  
8 wanted to just make a few comments to wrap up. Keep in mind that the state  
9 transportation trust fund has still not been paid back for the money that's been removed  
10 to fund other transportation projects, either operating budget issues in the state over  
11 time. Hopefully it will get returned to the level it was previously. That continues to be a  
12 challenge for us. I am not concerned about our losing status with respect to the state in  
13 terms of our needs. I think to build our priority list, Glenn, that we've submitted to the  
14 state, it adds up to over several billion dollars, doesn't it? We've got a long way to go.  
15 But we are not going to get anywhere unless we get started, and this shows that we are  
16 getting started, and I just note with respect to the rest of the state, if you look at the CTP  
17 across the state, there's a significant number of projects on going across the state that  
18 the state has found an ability to fund, to work out creative solutions, and I am very  
19 optimistic that having put this money out there that a real conversation can begin,  
20 because I think we are all united in trying to address this problem. So, with that I will go  
21 on to the next item, the Silver Spring Transit Center. That's delivering. We owe a debt of  
22 gratitude to Senator Ida Rubin, I believe, for securing the rest of the state money for the  
23 Silver Spring Transit Center. Ironically as you will note here, not everyone is a player.  
24 Congress, I didn't know this has passed a retroactive 1% reduction in '06  
25 appropriations. Interesting. I didn't see a headline on that in any newspaper. So,  
26 apparently now we have to adjust our local commitment to make up for what the federal  
27 government is doing to us. Is that correct Glenn?

28  
29 Glenn Orlin,

30 That's right, to add \$133,000 in bond funds in fiscal year '09, but this is the price of  
31 getting the \$6 million in state aid.

32  
33 Councilmember Floreen,

34 Thank you, Congress. Well, okay, we'll take what we can get.

35  
36 Glenn Orlin,

37 This is one, again the Committee didn't have a recommendation...

38  
39 Councilmember Floreen,

40 No, I'm not sure there's a choice.

41  
42 Glenn Orlin,



May 9, 2006

1 No, it's bond funding. It's bond funding, you just need a motion here.

2  
3 Councilmember Floreen,  
4 The Committee I think...

5  
6 Council President Leventhal,  
7 Either way let's treat it as a Committee recommendation. Mr. Perez, is that agreeable to  
8 you to make up the short fall on the Silver Spring Transit Center? Do you have an  
9 objection to that?

10  
11 Councilmember Perez,  
12 [INAUDIBLE]

13  
14 Council President Leventhal,  
15 So, we'll treat that as a T&E Committee recommendation...

16  
17 Councilmember Floreen,  
18 Once again united.

19  
20 Councilmember Knapp,  
21 As long as we don't move the Silver Spring Transit Center to Rockville.

22  
23 [LAUGHTER]

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 We might need to move it to Clarksburg.

27  
28 Council President Leventhal,  
29 Without objection then those additional bond funds will be recommended for the CIP,  
30 and Ms. Praisner has a question.

31  
32 Councilmember Praisner,  
33 Well, my understanding of what was done at the state is that the money was moved  
34 from one project to this, but there's nothing that says that the Governor has to spend it  
35 on this project. He just can't spend it on the other project. So, when will we know what  
36 is, yeah. The language was not that the money would be spent on this. The spending  
37 still gives the Governor control from a standpoint of whether he will spend it on this or  
38 not. I urge you to talk to Melanie Wenger in OIR. And so the question is, when will we  
39 know that the Governor is okay, and will request that it be spent this way? What they did  
40 is take a pot of money that was for another project and say you can only spend that  
41 money on the Silver Spring Transit center. It doesn't automatically mean he will do that,  
42 and so I think there is an issue that we need to pursue to make sure that he implements

50

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 the desire of the legislature. I don't think it's an automatic given, and I think there may  
2 need to be some work done.

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 Well, I'm sure we will be informed if there's a...

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,  
8 Well, I was informed by OIR, that's the point I'm making.

9  
10 Councilmember Floreen,  
11 Okay.

12  
13 Council President Leventhal,  
14 Okay, keep going Ms. Floreen.

15  
16 Councilmember Floreen,  
17 Next one, Facility Planning storm drains. Mr. Denis requested and the T&E Committee  
18 supports the effort to examine the Glen Echo storm drain situation. We spent time  
19 discussing with the community the implications, there we go. There are some different  
20 opinions of course. Being a community, it's an engaged community and I think we are  
21 going to get, they're going to get a lot of potluck suppers out of this, and conversations  
22 as to what a study of storm drains, and what the Glen Echo community might mean. We  
23 have encouraged them to be polite to Mr. Johnson and the Facility Planning staff to look  
24 at their community issues, and to bring back a report on an initiative that would be  
25 appropriate to address their concerns. So we recommend adding a \$100,000 again. We  
26 are treating this as operating expense money, so it's treated as recognize reconciliation  
27 list item. To be ultimately included in the capital budget for storm drain.

28  
29 Council President Leventhal,  
30 Assuming the available funds, every dollar on the reconciliation list competes against  
31 every other dollar.

32  
33 Councilmember Floreen,  
34 And that's why we put it there.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 Okay, could I just make a brief announcement before we proceed madam chair. We are  
38 going to move the last item on today's agenda, so this is actually to allow anyone who is  
39 listening to make contact with others who may be interested. The last item on today's  
40 agenda is the Gaithersburg Aquatic Center, it's a CIP item, and we're going to put that  
41 over until, to be the first item tomorrow morning. For the benefit of staff or community



May 9, 2006

1 members who may have an interest in that item it will be taken up as the first item  
2 tomorrow morning.

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 Okay, another, Mr. Denis had a comment.

6  
7 Councilmember Denis,  
8 Thank you Madam Chair. I really just wanted to thank you and the Committee for  
9 including this item. And all concerned do appreciate that this is a reconciliation item as  
10 President Leventhal has stated, so it's not automatic, our budget process is such that  
11 we add that we may subtract, and subtract that we may add, That's the magic of our  
12 process. This basically gives us a \$100,000 shot, a decent shot, at getting funded, but I  
13 also want to share...

14  
15 Council President Leventhal,  
16 That is if Mr. Denis behaves himself.

17  
18 Councilmember Denis,  
19 Right, well I haven't said a word today, but I also wanted to share the Council and the  
20 community and others that we did proceed very cautiously in this area. Before I  
21 approach the Committee and the Chair on this matter, we did have extensive  
22 community meetings, including the Department, and we made every effort to learn from  
23 the experience of other communities as well. And so, as you'll see, on the top of page  
24 13 that there was a survey in the community on the project, or on the study for the  
25 project, and 93.5% of the respondents said they would approve it. Although there was  
26 majority support for a storm drain and so on. As you get into these projects you  
27 approach other issues. In the study phase there was overwhelming community support  
28 for placing this item before the Council and for having it funded. Again, I want to thank  
29 the Chair. Thank you Ms. Floreen and the Committee and the Department for working  
30 with me on this matter. Thanks.

31  
32 Councilmember Floreen,  
33 Great. One more item, I know, one more item. This is a result of actually the PHED  
34 Committee meeting the other day with respect to the Damascus bypass. We are  
35 supposed to be getting a new PDF to the County CIP momentarily. We just got a memo  
36 from General Holmes with respect to north Damascus Park and Ride lot. I don't know  
37 when the full Council is going to take up what the PHED Committee discussed the other  
38 day, but here's a peek. Recommendation is to provide, to build a Park and Ride lot on  
39 Ridge Road to change its location and to adjust its timing. DPWT estimates that a Park  
40 and Ride lot with a minimum 100 parking spaces at the site we discussed in the  
41 Committee will cost approximately \$860,000 to design and between two and \$3.4



May 9, 2006

1 million to construct. In addition to costs of land acquisition. So, I want to make a motion  
2 to put this project before my colleagues to...

3  
4 Glenn Orlin,  
5 What I suggest...

6  
7 Councilmember Floreen,  
8 Without the PDF.

9  
10 Glenn Orlin,  
11 Here's what I suggest, this came over this morning, the PDF would be created would be  
12 just for the design costs. And we will prepare later if you agree.

13  
14 Councilmember Floreen,  
15 I don't know if we need a, yeah...

16  
17 Glenn Orlin,  
18 Yeah, you need a vote.

19  
20 Councilmember Floreen,  
21 Unless there's an objection.

22  
23 Council President Leventhal,  
24 Yeah, I was conferring with Mr. Subin...

25  
26 Glenn Orlin,  
27 Motion made and seconded to approve a PDF which would be created to approve  
28 \$860,000 for the design of this Park and Ride lot in the north side of Damascus.

29  
30 Council President Leventhal,  
31 In which year?

32  
33 Glenn Orlin,  
34 \$400,000 in '07 and \$460,000 in '08.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 And these would be G.O. Bond revenue?

38  
39 Glenn Orlin,  
40 No, it probably didn't say, I would say it should G.O. Bond.

41  
42 Council President Leventhal,



May 9, 2006

1 Could be G.O. Bond?

2  
3 Glenn Orlin,

4 Should be G.O. Bond, it's designed for a project that will happen.

5  
6 Council President Leventhal,

7 Okay, the motion has been made and seconded. Is there further discussion on the  
8 motion? Mr. Silverman are you talking about the Damascus Park and Ride?

9  
10 Councilmember Silverman,  
11 No.

12  
13 Council President Leventhal,

14 Ms. Praisner do you have comments on the Damascus Park and Ride?

15  
16 Councilmember Praisner,  
17 No.

18  
19 Council President Leventhal,

20 Those in favor of creating a new PDF, and adding it to the CIP for the Damascus Park  
21 and Ride funded by G.O. Bonds will signify by raising their hands. It is unanimous,  
22 Okay, Mr. Silverman.

23  
24 Councilmember Silverman,

25 Thank you Mr. President, I apologize for being out of the chamber when we took up the  
26 annual bike way program, but this is like a 30 second question here.

27  
28 Councilmember Floreen,  
29 There's no pressure.

30  
31 Councilmember Silverman,

32 This is back on page 7. No, I don't want to change the recommendations of the  
33 Committee which is I'm very grateful to add \$200,000 to the operating budget  
34 reconciliation list for bike way improvements in FY '07. I just wanted to highlight the fact  
35 that a collection of the bike advocates have suggested that the first \$100,000 of that  
36 assuming this were to survive our process would go toward signage. I do not want to  
37 split this, but I just wanted to at least convey that to the Department. It's obviously not  
38 binding, but you will I'm sure get more correspondence, but I wanted to at least highlight  
39 that issue. I was asked to raise that, and I want to make sure that gets conveyed, thank  
40 you.

41  
42 Council President Leventhal,





May 9, 2006

1 Ms. Praisner had a comment.

2  
3 Councilmember Floreen,

4 I know, she wants to take up the Henson Trail issue now.

5  
6 Council President Leventhal,

7 You are going to do that now? Go ahead.

8  
9 Councilmember Praisner,

10 Done with the operating budget, and I wanted to...capital budget, I'm sorry. We're  
11 moving into the operating budget. I just wanted to make a comment though on the storm  
12 drain. It's my understanding, though, that what staff is saying, and I know the community  
13 knows that as does Mr. Denis, that if we funded this, it would go into planning. It still  
14 then has to be prioritized with all of the other projects. Everybody agrees that that's what  
15 we're doing?

16  
17 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,

18 That's right.

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,

21 Thank you. I raised yesterday a point about the Matthew Henson trail, and let me just  
22 say something. I have received a lot of communication both from folks who are not  
23 happy with the whole idea of the trail and now from bicyclists who are questioning the  
24 motivation of my, and attributing motivation to those who have raised questions. We  
25 definitely have folks who is are strong advocates for the trail. We also have community  
26 people who live along its path who are concerned about the trail, and as I said  
27 yesterday, that vote has already been taken. That is not the issue that I am raising. For  
28 some reason, and this isn't the only issue, we continue to get e-mails from folk who is  
29 are not present when the conversations are held who then ascribe either motivation or  
30 intent to the drafter of or those who raise comments. And it isn't, this year for some  
31 reason it is more intense than in the past. We had it with the PHED Committee  
32 questions about the green way plan, and all of a sudden we got a ton of e-mail  
33 suggesting that we were eliminating that item. And now with the Matthew Henson we  
34 have the advocates. It's almost like Hatfields and McCoys. And remember the Hatfields  
35 and McCoys forgot what they were arguing about. I would call your attention, I really  
36 wish folks would focus on specifically what is being asked, not what they would like  
37 being asked, or what they fear has been asked. The votes have not changed on the  
38 Matthew Henson trail. That vote was taken. The question is that the County Executive  
39 for fiscal reasons, not for other motivations, the PDF says so, for fiscal reasons deferred  
40 the beginning of the funding to out years. The Committee and the Council moved it up  
41 to '07 and '08. In the process of doing so, the packet for the Council said certain things  
42 about the permits and about the status. There are also certain comments within the



May 9, 2006

1 PDF that are not necessarily accurate. I did not raise those issues during the CIP  
2 process because, quite frankly, I assumed some of the language and some of the  
3 discussion was moving along in a different way. I believe the Council needs to review its  
4 PDF so they are accurate or that if language needs to be changed, they are changed. It  
5 is changed, and I also believe that when we're talking about a CIP, which Mr. Orlin has  
6 informed us is not just fine tuning this year, but will have some significant financial  
7 issues associated with the timing of projects, and the money associated with projects in  
8 any specific year, that if there are questions about a CIP project, they should be  
9 discussed before the Council gets to reconciliation. It is with that in mind that I've raised  
10 some issues. I have to also tell the Department that when you have a Park and  
11 Planning commission project, which the Department has as its project, because it was  
12 part, once part of the now defunct Go Montgomery Initiative, we had confusion about,  
13 and I think still some confusion about coordination and communication. I understand  
14 that the Department continues to meet with the Bicycle Activist Group and the Action  
15 Group On Bicycles. There are no other action groups that I am aware of other than the  
16 Pedestrian Advisory Committee that continues, once before Mr. Holmes was there as  
17 secretary Department head, under Mr. Genetti. The action groups, I think, were cut  
18 back, scaled back for staff reasons and other reasons. But there used to be action  
19 groups that were more focused on geography than function. And there are some  
20 communities who enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to interact with the  
21 Department about a myriad of issues from traffic signals to can you fix this or why can't  
22 we have a project here or there. There are some who view the bicycle action group as  
23 having special status and access that those communities do not have. So, I just transmit  
24 that to you to understand that. Their view that something untoward goes on, I do not  
25 agree with, but it has provided a venue for bicycle advocates who are well organized to  
26 bring forward a list of issues. And the communities who live along those projects do not  
27 necessarily know at the same time that these things are moving forward. That said, the  
28 PDF says that a pedestrian traffic light should be installed at the intersection of the trail  
29 at Viers Mill and Turkey Branch Parkway. It's my understanding that state highway said  
30 no to that, but no one that I recall ever suggested that there is some issue with the PDF  
31 from that perspective. If Park and Planning required the commissioners that a traffic  
32 light be installed and there will be no traffic light, then the question is, have the  
33 commissioners modified their requirements? Since that was part of, I believe,  
34 mandatory referral and Park and Planning Commissioner comments, if they have not,  
35 how are we reconciling that? At one point the issue was one of, well, the trail itself will  
36 be modified to accommodate that. If that's true, we don't know that. If state highway, as  
37 is my understanding from conversations with the administrator, did not believe that  
38 directing folks to park land was going to be a safe accommodation, and to look at  
39 design issues crossing Viers Mill, what is the status of that review? The other question  
40 that's been raised is we were told all the permits were a done deal. Is it true, or do we  
41 still have permits that are outstanding? We were also told that if we don't move quickly,  
42 we may lose the permits. That is not my understanding. I just think it is important that in

56

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 the enthusiasm for this project, knowing that there are community people who live along  
2 the route, who are concerned about this project, that crossing T's and dotting I's would  
3 be a good idea. And the language on the PDF is not accurate. I harken back to Mr.  
4 Knapp's comments about the enthusiasm for dealing with the signature site along 270,  
5 and we haven't talked to the community yet. I urged Park and Planning, or Park and  
6 Planning and DPWT since I don't really think this belongs in DPWT, but that's where it  
7 is, to, I encourage Park and Planning to issue the same kinds of documents that you  
8 DPWT or DPWT issue the same kind of documents that I've seen that I think are  
9 excellent whenever you have a project to folks who live along the project, not just those  
10 that are anxious and eager to use the project. So not just the bicyclists, but the  
11 residents who live around them need to have the information about the route. And if the  
12 route is being changed by virtue of state permits and state review, agency and  
13 Department reviews, then folks need to know that. And if it still might be modified, does  
14 that affect the cost? While we are plugging in these dollars. And is it true that we are  
15 going to be able to spend all of this money in the years that we are saying? Those are  
16 all the questions that I have. Again, I'm not making any motions to eliminate this project.  
17 I still believe it should be hard plus natural, but I'm not going there. Those are my  
18 comments and questions.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,

21 All right, hold on Director Holmes, because I have a couple questions for Ms. Praisner.  
22 My hope is, and I heard Ms. Praisner say she's not making motions, but I too, first of all I  
23 too have read the e-mails on this matter and I too read the e-mails on the green  
24 infrastructure plan. I didn't recognize the County Council or the County government that  
25 was described in these e-mails. There were a lot of conspiracy theories floated, and I  
26 just am surprised at the tone of some e-mails. Particularly on the green infrastructure  
27 plan, which was approved yesterday, and to which there was never any suggestion to  
28 delete it, and yet we got more e-mail on that topic than any other in the last three days.  
29 There seems to be a kind of panic button being pressed on some of these issues that I  
30 appreciate your comments about. My question to Dr. Orlin and then if Director Holmes  
31 wants to comment as well, that's fine. It seems to me as first of all, let me state I voted  
32 to move up the timing of the Matthew Henson trail. It's a project that's well known to the  
33 T&E Committee that we discuss each year I've been a member of that Committee. It's  
34 one that commands support from a broad swath of the community. And I know it's a  
35 project that's been controversial on the issue of hard surface, soft surface, it's been a  
36 sticking point for a number of years. The T&E and Council have decided to move  
37 forward with the Matthew Henson Trail project, as Ms. Praisner acknowledges. So then  
38 the question is, are there inaccuracies in the PDF. Ms. Praisner who we all appreciate is  
39 one of the most thorough of Councilmembers actually reads every word in PDFs, which  
40 some of us do depending on the project, I appreciate Ms. Praisner's thoroughness. My  
41 question is, is there a way to make the PDF accurate on the issues that Ms. Praisner



May 9, 2006

1 raises? Certainly it's true, she is correct, it states that a pedestrian traffic light will be  
2 installed. We have now learned it won't be installed.

3  
4 Glenn Orlin,  
5 Should be installed.

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 With respect to the issue that Ms. Praisner raises, is there a relatively simple resolution  
9 such that we can move forward with expedited funding of the Matthew Henson Trail  
10 which is a project this Council supports and do so in a manner that's accurately  
11 described on the project description form? Dr. Orlin first followed by the Director Holmes  
12 or any of his staff, he'd like to call on.

13  
14 Glenn Orlin,  
15 What I suggest is that you listen to Mr. Riley, who's the Manager of the Project. He can  
16 tell you the status of the signal, or not signal, and then based on what he says...

17  
18 Council President Leventhal,  
19 I don't want to get bogged down on the signal, this is an over arching question.

20  
21 Glenn Orlin,  
22 That's the PDF.

23  
24 Council President Leventhal,  
25 Ms. Praisner has raised a number of issues in the PDF. My over arching question is, is  
26 there a way today or soon to amend the PDF such that we keep the Matthew Henson  
27 trail on track on schedule and describe it accurately in the CIP?

28  
29 Glenn Orlin,  
30 Yes.

31  
32 Council President Leventhal,  
33 Could we work out a mechanism of doing that before the final passage offer the CIP?  
34 Because Ms. Praisner is not offering motions, and yet if this is going to continue to be a  
35 thorn in the side of the community, can we just correct the PDF?

36  
37 Glenn Orlin,  
38 Of course, yes.

39  
40 Council President Leventhal,  
41 And could you Dr. Orlin come back to us with suggestions as to how the PDF might be  
42 made accurate?



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Glenn Orlin,  
3 What I will do based on what Mr. Riley says in the subsequent discussions, I will make  
4 revisions to the PDF and circulate it. If there's problems, we will bring it up again, if  
5 there's not it will be what's in the final resolution.  
6

7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 Could we get that maybe today?  
9

10 Glenn Orlin,  
11 No.  
12

13 Council President Leventhal,  
14 Could you give us a time frame.  
15

16 Glenn Orlin,  
17 Couple days.  
18

19 Council President Leventhal,  
20 By Thursday?  
21

22 Glenn Orlin,  
23 Thursday, Friday.  
24

25 Council President Leventhal,  
26 So we could look forward to it.  
27

28 Councilmember Praisner,  
29 We're not meeting Friday.  
30

31 Council President Leventhal,  
32 We are not meeting Friday.  
33

34 Glenn Orlin,  
35 You are meeting Monday. We will get to you later this week or Monday.  
36

37 Council President Leventhal,  
38 Mr. Riley do you agree that the PDF could be accurate by the time we finally pass it in  
39 the CIP?  
40

41 Mike Riley,  
42 Yes I do. I think it's a very simple issue of wording.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Okay, and so you and Dr. Orlin can work on the wording and then we could all have  
4 confidence that the things we saying we are doing are our best understanding of what  
5 we are doing.

6  
7 Mike Riley,  
8 Yes.

9  
10 Council President Leventhal,  
11 Is there further discussion needed on this topic at this time?

12  
13 Glenn Orlin,  
14 Is it just wording or is it also funding?

15  
16 Councilmember Praisner,  
17 No. That's what I was just going to ask. Is it just wording or is it, is it just wording, or is it  
18 funding and also...

19  
20 Mike Riley,  
21 It's not a funding issue. The PDF text alludes to a pedestrian traffic signal to provide  
22 safe crossing. The safe crossing part is valid, it will just achieved through other traffic  
23 control devices than pedestrian signal.

24  
25 Councilmember Praisner,  
26 Can you respond, not now, I don't want to take the time, to the issue of status of  
27 permits.

28  
29 Mike Riley,  
30 Yes.

31  
32 Councilmember Praisner,  
33 And status of design.

34  
35 Mike Riley,  
36 Yes.

37  
38 Councilmember Praisner,  
39 And the costs associated with it?

40  
41 Mike Riley,  
42 Yes.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 Thank you.

4  
5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 So Mr. Riley and Dr. Orlin will work on making sure the PDF accurately states the  
7 current status of the project.

8  
9 Councilmember Praisner,  
10 And the issue of the commissioners and the mandatory referral piece. Can you respond  
11 to that later too please?

12  
13 Mike Riley,  
14 Yes, it was a park CIP project that was not a mandatory referral, but board action on the  
15 PDF.

16  
17 Councilmember Praisner,  
18 Requiring certain things.

19  
20 Mike Riley,  
21 Yes.

22  
23 Councilmember Praisner,  
24 Can you highlight what those are?

25  
26 Glenn Orlin,  
27 So can I clear, the only change would be to the text having to do with the signal, and not  
28 the funding schedule. Is that right Ms. Praisner?

29  
30 Council President Leventhal,  
31 Based on DPWT's understanding that they can carry out the project under the funding?

32  
33 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
34 Park and Planning.

35  
36 Councilmember Praisner,  
37 Keep saying DPWT, but it's the Park and Planning commission project. I think we  
38 should fix the PDF as far as showing it as a DPWT project. It's not.

39  
40 Glenn Orlin,  
41 You want to show it as part of the Park CIP?





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 Yes.

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 Well is it?

7  
8 Glenn Orlin,  
9 No, the part of DPWT's, because it was part of Go Montgomery, but you all wanted to  
10 do it that way. Or do you want to change your mind?

11  
12 Council President Leventhal,  
13 I doubt that anyone on the Council has really strong views as to whether it's a Parks  
14 project or whether it's a DPWT project, as long as the project is done on the time frame.

15  
16 Councilmember Silverman,  
17 Don't we need a substitute project for Go Montgomery?

18  
19 Councilmember Floreen,  
20 We eliminated that lingo.

21  
22 Council President Leventhal,  
23 There's an easy resolution to this issue in clear sight in the near term if we can...

24  
25 Arthur Holmes, Jr.,  
26 Well it's a question of DPWT and Park and Planning work together. We will work  
27 together, we will put it in the right spot...

28  
29 Council President Leventhal,  
30 We'll have a new PDF before us in a few days. Okay, and we thank Ms. Praisner for  
31 raising this issue, and we're almost with this issue. Chairwoman Floreen.

32  
33 Councilmember Floreen,  
34 I have nothing more to add.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 All right. Very, very good. Okay, let me say the hour of 12:15 having arrived, we were  
38 supposed to take a break at 12:15. We have the entire DPWT operating budget, but the  
39 good news is we have only one witness for all of these hearings that are scheduled at  
40 1:30. So why don't we go ahead, and break for lunch now, and then at 1:30 we will  
41 come back. The public hearing will be rapid, and we'll just resume after that.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Floreen,  
3 That would be fine. Great. All done, Mr. President.  
4



May 9, 2006

1 Council President Leventhal,  
2 This is a public hearing on Bill 07-06: Special Capital Improvements Clarksburg Fire  
3 Station, which would authorize the planning, design, and construction of the new  
4 Clarksburg Fire Station in the Clarksburg Planning Area. It's also public hearing on Bill  
5 08-06: Special Capital Improvements Project East Germantown Fire Station, which  
6 would authorize the planning, design, and construction of the east Germantown Fire  
7 Station in the Germantown Planning Area. Also on Bill 09-06: Special Capital  
8 Improvements Project Animal Shelter, which would authorize the planning, design, and  
9 construction of animal shelter in Upper Rock Creek Watershed Planning Area. Capital  
10 Improvements Project North County Maintenance Depot, which would authorize the  
11 planning, design, and site acquisition of the North County Maintenance Depot in the  
12 Clarksburg Planning Area. Also on Bill 11-06: Special Capital Improvements Project  
13 Gaithersburg Library Renovation, which would authorize the planning, redesign, and  
14 renovation of the Gaithersburg Library, In the Gaithersburg and Vicinity Planning Area.  
15 Action on these special CIP projects is tentatively scheduled for May 25th. Anyone who  
16 wishes to submit additional material for the Council's consideration should do so by the  
17 close of business May 16th. There are no speakers for these hearings. Agenda item 20  
18 is a public hearing on Bill 12-06, Transmission Facility Coordination, which would clarify  
19 that a designee of the Department of Permitting Services and not the Department of  
20 Environmental Protection will serve as the member of the Transmission Facility  
21 Coordinating Group and generally amend County law regarding transmission facility  
22 coordination. A Management and Fiscal Policy Work Session is tentatively scheduled  
23 for June 12 at 3:00 p.m. Anyone who wants to submit additional material for the  
24 Council's consideration should do so by the close of business on May 19th. There are  
25 no speakers for this hearing. Agenda item 21 is public hearing on Bill 14-06, Personnel  
26 Salary Schedules, Medical Doctors, which would modify the uniform salary plan for  
27 County employees to include a salary schedule for medical doctors, established factors  
28 on which the Chief Administrative Officer must base any recommended amendment to  
29 this salary schedule, exclude medical doctors from a requirement that all occupational  
30 classes be paid certain comparable salaries, and generally amend the law governing  
31 salary schedules for County employees. A joint meeting of the Management and Fiscal  
32 Policy and Health and Human Services Committees is tentatively scheduled for June  
33 12th at 2:00 p.m. Anyone who wishes to submit additional material for the Council's  
34 consideration should do so by the close of business on May 19th. We have one witness,  
35 Joe Adler. Mr. Adler, good to see you.

36  
37 Joe Adler,  
38 Mr. Speaker. Would it suffice to say that we support and move on?  
39

40 Council President Leventhal,  
41 That's fine. That's okay.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Joe Adler,

3 On behalf of the administration we support this Bill because it would make it easier to  
4 recruit and maintain physicians, thank you.

5  
6 Council President Leventhal,

7 Thank you, Mr. Adler. That concludes agenda item 21. Agenda item 22, Fire and  
8 Rescue Training Standards, which would clarify that the Chief Administrative Officer  
9 determines promotional standards for County Merit System Firefighters which would  
10 differ from the core training standards applicable to both career and volunteer  
11 firefighters, and generally provide for training standards for career and volunteer  
12 firefighters. The Public Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled to take this up this Bill  
13 on June 15. Anyone who wishes to submit additional material for the Council to consider  
14 should do so by the close of business May 26. There are no witnesses for this hearing.  
15 Agenda item 23 is a public hearing on a resolution to approve a mutual aid agreement  
16 with the Maryland National Capital Park Police, which would authorize the County to  
17 enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Maryland National Capital Park Police to  
18 provide mutual aid across jurisdictional boundaries including Police Officers, and other  
19 officers, employees and agents together with all necessary equipment. A Public Safety  
20 Committee work session is tentatively scheduled for June 19th, 2006. Anyone who  
21 wants to submit additional material for the Council to consider should do so by the close  
22 of business May 26th, there are no witnesses for this hearing. Agenda item 24 as public  
23 hearing on a special appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools FY '06  
24 Capital Budget, and amendment to the FY '05 through 2010 Capital Improvements  
25 Program for the replacement and removal of relocatable classrooms in the amount of  
26 \$2.1 million. We do need another Councilmember, no, we don't. We've got five.

27  
28 Councilmember Floreen,

29 You need six.

30  
31 Council President Leventhal,

32 Special appropriation CIP, yeah. We do need six votes.

33  
34 Councilmember Praisner,

35 Steve was here a minute ago.

36  
37 Councilmember Floreen,

38 So was Mr. Denis.

39  
40 Councilmember Praisner,

41 I have a question.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Question on the relocatables, Ms. Praisner.

4  
5 Councilmember Praisner,  
6 No, not on the relocatables, on the FY '06 current revenue general. I wanted to  
7 understand the status, yeah, I know. I just wanted to understand where we are on,  
8 yeah, we're supposed to vote yes. I just want a status report of where we are with, this  
9 is the reserve current revenue and just wanted to understand the status from OMB. It's  
10 not going to stop the action on this. Obviously we have the money; otherwise we  
11 wouldn't be doing it. I want to know what the net bottom line is now on FY '06 funds.  
12 That's all.

13  
14 Council President Leventhal,  
15 Okay, do you we have an answer to this question?

16  
17 Councilmember Praisner,  
18 No, but I can get it after. That's fine too.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 Okay, all right. Does the Education Committee have a recommendation on the  
22 relocatable classrooms. Chairman Subin.

23  
24 Councilmember Subin,  
25 The recommendation is to approve the special appropriation. It was also as we stated,  
26 that the school system look at expediting the deletion of relocatables as soon as  
27 possible, and we're expecting sometime at the end of November, middle to end of  
28 November, the recommendations for the amendments to the FY '08 to the 07 to '12 CIP,  
29 so we're strongly recommending approval of this request.

30  
31 Council President Leventhal,  
32 Ms. Praisner.

33  
34 Councilmember Praisner,  
35 I appreciate what's coming in the fall. My only question is if we're going to eliminate all  
36 relocatables, which I really think is like ending gridlock, impossible to do if we're going to  
37 do it by building a shell, I just wonder the extent and would have folks come back in the  
38 fall with information about the extent to which a shell beyond the capacity of enrollment  
39 would be eligible for state funding.

40  
41 Council President Leventhal,  
42 Okay.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Subin,  
3 A shell issue is completely separate from this.  
4

5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 Mr. Chairman, I didn't actually recognize you. I will recognize you in just a moment. I  
7 was going to suggest, and then I'll call on the Chairman, that that discussion is way  
8 premature, that we understand from the Chairman that the School System has let him  
9 know they haven't yet actually responded to my inquiry on this but we understand  
10 they've let the Chairman know that they'll be getting material to us in November, and  
11 we'll look forward to a discussion at that time. So I don't want to prejudge what the  
12 proposal looks like. I think everyone on this Council is eager to see a substantial  
13 reduction in the number of relocatables, and as with my comments earlier on gridlock, I  
14 don't want to over promise to anyone that we're eliminating any permanent condition.  
15 Having said all that, Chairman Subin, you have the floor.  
16

17 Councilmember Subin,  
18 Thank you, Mr. President and thank you for stating that the issue of the shell was  
19 premature. I'll leave it go at that. There is no, and I would let either Mr. Denis or Mr.  
20 Knapp speak for themselves on this, but there is no -- and there is no illusion or  
21 presumption that it will get down to zero and folks will never see portables in this  
22 County. The question is getting them down to a *de minimis* level and what needs to be  
23 done. And now that the school population has leveled out is expected to be level for a  
24 number of years there is the opportunity to build the classrooms to house the  
25 youngsters that are now in portables. But there was no illusion or no attempt by the  
26 school system to say this would get down to zero. The words *de minimis* are being used  
27 and again the issue of a shell is a future discussion. There is nothing on the table  
28 regarding that. It is a way to deal with the problem in the future.  
29

30 Council President Leventhal,  
31 Okay, I am certainly going to vote for the \$2.1 million and recognize some critical  
32 problems with aging and sick trailers that I hope that this special appropriation will  
33 significantly address. What I did want to comment, and then I'll call on Chairman Subin  
34 again in just a moment, every dollar in this budget competes with every other dollar in  
35 this budget. Every FY '06 surplus dollar goes over to the FY '07 budget. There is no pot  
36 of money available that does not have a claim on it. And so what we are going to be  
37 doing in the next several days as was laid out by Mr. Farber yesterday and was laid out  
38 in my memo over the weekend is to trying to figure out of the many claims on this  
39 budget including some hurry up, hurry up, hurry up last minute enormous claims on this  
40 budget that we expect to receive from MCPS today every dollar competes with every  
41 other dollar. So if we want to set aside money in FY '07 current revenue for the FY '08  
42 school CIP that is money that if we spend it for another purpose will not be set aside for



May 9, 2006

1 the FY '08 CIP. If we spend money that we intend for if we want to have a reserve of a  
2 certain size money that is spent obviously does not go into the reserve. We are going to  
3 get a request from the school system for \$13 million in a pension supplement. Many of  
4 us will have a highly meritorious request. All of us without exception believe that our  
5 school system employees should have a secure pension. Along with the \$13 million  
6 request, the school system will say it is assisting our task by identifying \$3 million in  
7 surplus, that can be, that can offset the 13 million. At the same time, the school system  
8 appropriately is saying there's an urgent need for new relocatables in the amount of  
9 \$2.1. And at the same time there is a shortfall in federal funding for special education in  
10 the amount of \$1.4 million. Follow the dollars here. So the \$3 million that the School  
11 System today is offering us up to help pay for the \$13 million cost of the pension  
12 enhancement is already spoken for -- with the combined \$2.1 on the relocatables and  
13 the \$1.4 on the special ed. So just understand that we would like to try and do all these  
14 meritorious thing, but there is no additional money other than the money that we know is  
15 already on table and over the next 10 days we're going to have to assess with a money  
16 needs to be set aside, what money we can take credit for setting aside, or whether we  
17 can do it all right now. We will be guided by what a majority of the Council wants to do.  
18 Don't misunderstand when the school system says we've identified \$3 million in savings  
19 that's a surplus that was pretty much - we knew already was there, and secondarily  
20 we've got this \$2.1 million request, and the \$1.4 million request at the very same time as  
21 they're saying the \$3 million can help pay for \$13 million. You can actually only spend  
22 \$1.00 one time. Chairman Subin.

23  
24 Councilmember Subin,

25 Thank you. Without getting in all the other issues, this request we're looking at now is  
26 the normal, we know this is coming. It's part of the CIP or as far as the budget comes to  
27 life every year because we look at needs. But the President made a point that is clearly  
28 a concern and an issue and that is on sick portables. Part of this money will be spent for  
29 one portable at one school but essentially deal with two portables because it will be a  
30 matter of the cost to dismantle and cart away the sick trailer and then to bring another  
31 one back on-site. So there will be what appears to be some duplication in here, but it  
32 will be to take care of that issue.

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,

35 Okay. Those in favor of the special appropriation for the replacement and removal of  
36 relocatable classrooms in the amount of \$2.1 million will signify by raising their hands. It  
37 is unanimous.

38  
39 Keith Levchenko,

40 One point of clarification. There was an error of the PDF attached to the packet. I had  
41 excluded one supplemental appropriation request that was approved by the Council last





May 9, 2006

1 year in this project. There will be several in the past year so I'll make sure the PDF that  
2 is part of the final resolution has the correct number in FY '06.

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,

5 Yes, we're very interested in having accurate PDF's. Agenda item 25 is a public hearing  
6 on supplemental appropriations to the FY '06 Capital Budget, and amendment to the FY  
7 '05 through 2010 Capital Improvements Program of the Department of Housing and  
8 Community Affairs for Fenton Street Village pedestrian linkages in the amount of  
9 \$199,000. For Long Branch pedestrian linkages in the amount of \$199,000 and south  
10 Silver Spring pedestrian linkages in the amount of \$746,000. Action is scheduled  
11 following the hearing, there are no speakers. Is there a Committee recommendation on  
12 this?

13  
14 Councilmember Praisner,  
15 Those requests came directly...

16  
17 Council President Leventhal,  
18 Turn your microphone on.

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,  
21 This request came directly I believe, and the PHED Committee didn't discuss them I'll  
22 move approval.

23  
24 Councilmember Floreen,  
25 Second.

26  
27 Council President Leventhal,  
28 The motion has been made and seconded. Those all in favor of all these pedestrian  
29 linkages in Tom Perez's district will signify by raising their hands.

30  
31 [LAUGHTER]

32  
33 Councilmember Perez,  
34 I've got you covered.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 It is unanimous.

38  
39 Councilmember Perez,  
40 10-0.

41  
42 [LAUGHTER]



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Mrs. Perez also voted. Okay. We have now we're back to the FY '07 Operating Budget  
4 of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. Chairwoman Floreen.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 Thank you very much, Mr. President. You have Glenn's memo in front of you starting at  
8 page 15, which kicks off the General Fund transportation analysis. Welcome back, Mr.  
9 Holmes. Did you want to make any comments about the operating? Relevant to our  
10 conversation of this morning, I'll just note that the number -- the amount of highway user  
11 money that we expected from the state is, was \$335,000 more than we actually are  
12 getting in the state budget which may have some implications for us. We shall see how  
13 that works. The County Executive recommends that funding for the transportation  
14 portion of the General Fund programs be increased by about 12%. Work years would  
15 go up quite modestly. The Committee recommendation generally, well, the DPWT  
16 budget generally is proposed to increase by 10%. The Committee recommendation is,  
17 you'll see it on the top of page 15. We recommend basically \$4.1 million increase in  
18 resources for the transportation program over and above what the County Executive  
19 has recommended. And this is all on the Reconciliation List. Primarily transit programs,  
20 but this also includes the storm drain study and some of the other elements that we've  
21 already discussed this morning. As well as additional issues associated with the loss of  
22 revenue from some free bus service that we're proposing this would also include Mr.  
23 Andrews's initiative. So that sorting out of the balance sheet is basically a summary of  
24 the Committee's recommendations for the DPWT transportation fund. And so with that,  
25 unless there are any general questions about that, I'll just start on the specifics.

26  
27 Council President Leventhal,  
28 Mr. Knapp has a question.

29  
30 Councilmember Knapp,  
31 Thanks, Mr. President. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick question. And I think this  
32 has come up previously, but the whole slurry seal issue, I know we've been talking  
33 about it a lot but I just don't...

34  
35 Councilmember Floreen,  
36 We did have a Committee meeting on that approach that's been employed and had  
37 quite a presentation on the slurry seal.

38  
39 Councilmember Knapp,  
40 That's fine, if I can get a copy of the information.

41  
42 Glenn Orlin,



May 9, 2006

1 In a word what happens in this upcoming fiscal year the County DPWT will be doing tar  
2 and chip patching only, not the whole streets. They do patching of the asphalt and  
3 continuous slurry seal as a coat over it. The money that you see on the top of page 15,  
4 the Council when they were doing the CIP money for patching -- and this is the  
5 corresponding patching and this is the money had a would be needed to do that  
6 increase in patching. You pretty much have to do this unless you want to take out that  
7 additional patching money back from the CIP, which you could do I suppose.

8  
9 Councilmember Knapp,  
10 I want to get an understanding of it because...

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 Of the programs.

14  
15 Councilmember Knapp,  
16 At one point in previous life actually did asphalt and slurry paving.

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 You have special skills.

20  
21 Councilmember Knapp,  
22 Once, yes, amazingly. But, so I know that slurry seal, if you think you're going to get  
23 your road paved and you have a slurry seal, people aren't happy. So I was curious to  
24 the extent, and not that they're not necessarily happy with the product. Slurry seal just  
25 happens to be a messier product and gets all overstuff so there's that element. But then  
26 there's the longevity, and I just don't know are we measuring the longevity of slurry seal  
27 versus asphalt, so we actually have some sense of the overall costs at some point in  
28 the future, so we can look back and see if that makes the most sense.

29  
30 Arthur Holmes,  
31 That's part of what we're doing, yes.

32  
33 Councilmember Floreen,  
34 I think we had a power point presentation on that, didn't we.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 Yeah, I was just going to say, Mr. Knapp, you need to join us more often on the T&E  
38 Committee because we had a really, really lengthy discussion of this.

39  
40 Councilmember Knapp,  
41 Well, over the course of this I've tried to make as many Committees as I possibly could  
42 but I missed that. But if I'd get a copy that, I'd appreciate it. And also just to the extent



May 9, 2006

1 the number of complaints that we're getting, not because people don't like the slurry  
2 seal but the actual end product of what they're seeing because I mean...

3  
4 Arthur Holmes,  
5 It's the things that go along with it. The ancillary things of dust.

6  
7 Councilmember Knapp,  
8 Right, the fact that, well the dust, the fact that it slops over on to your curbs and gutters,  
9 those types of things. I'd just like to get a sense, because I know I've gotten a fairly  
10 increased number of complaints.

11  
12 Arthur Holmes,  
13 And, I've gotten a fairly increased number of them too. Okay. All right, thank you. We'll  
14 get you that.

15  
16 Council President Leventhal,  
17 Ms. Praisner.

18  
19 Councilmember Praisner,  
20 I thought there was a question about piloting and evaluation of some of these things that  
21 you were still going through. Am I remembering things totally incorrectly related to...

22  
23 Steve Nash,  
24 I'm Steve Nash with DPWT that's exactly right, we are.

25  
26 Councilmember Praisner,  
27 What are you piloting and when are we going to know whatever it is we're going to know  
28 from the pilot?

29  
30 Steve Nash,  
31 We'll be working, of course, during the spring and summer. So as we prepare our '08  
32 we expect to be able to use the results of our study as we prepare an '08 budget that  
33 makes sense and does incorporate, if chip seal turns out to be cheaper faster, quicker,  
34 we're going to change those metrics. We'll keep the Council staff informed and try to  
35 integrate that.

36  
37 Councilmember Praisner,  
38 I guess maybe Mr. Knapp would like to join me in this. Maybe all districts'  
39 Councilmembers would. But I would really appreciate some kind of a monitoring or  
40 some report or keeping us in informed, not just Mr. Orlin, but via Mr. Orlin or whatever.  
41 And I don't think I fully appreciate or understand the context of what we are piloting,



May 9, 2006

1 especially as it relates to Mr. Knapp's point about longevity. And I'm not sure we'll know  
2 that through this process. And so, you know, the questions that come up...

3  
4 Arthur Holmes,

5 We'll get you a list of the things that we're doing and we make sure on a periodic basis  
6 we come back to you and give you some kind of report. That's to the total Council.

7  
8 Councilmember Praisner,  
9 Right, thanks.

10  
11 Council President Leventhal,  
12 Okay, keep going.

13  
14 Councilmember Floreen,

15 Okay, that was our first item here. We recommended adding \$250,000 more for  
16 resurfacing on to the Reconciliation List. Next item trail maintenance, my compliments  
17 to the representatives of the Calvert Cross and Trail Coalition and the Coalition For the  
18 Inner Purple Line. There were issues raised about the condition of that, the trail and, of  
19 course, balanced against the concern that we would undercut the effort to proceed with  
20 respect to the light rail line. The groups work together to come up with a mutually  
21 agreeable solution for accommodating some of the genuine drainage problems on the  
22 trail. And my hats off to Park and Planning staff and to Gail [Taknory], who worked with  
23 them to come up with a proposal. And so what we have -- the result of those  
24 conversations has been translated into a \$200,000 proposal to be placed on the  
25 Reconciliation List. Half of that would be used to clean out drainage structures and  
26 make some modest adjustments to the current part of the trail, primarily east of the  
27 trestle, right?

28  
29 Steve Nash,  
30 Right.

31  
32 Arthur Holmes,  
33 Yes.

34  
35 Councilmember Floreen,

36 That's what we're talking about. And then some additional work to look at drainage  
37 issues generally. You will note that there's in the vicinity of the Brookeville Depot, so  
38 there's a lot of "hip bone is connected to the thigh bone" situation over here that  
39 requires a look see. So the Committee's recommendation is to go forward with this  
40 putting it on again -- on the operating expense part of the Reconciliation List for that to  
41 compete with everything else. Associated with that will be a request to better maintain  
42 our hiker/biker trails. The current budget includes \$50,000. The Committee



May 9, 2006

1 recommends an additional \$50,000 to be added to the budget and placed on the  
2 Reconciliation List. Next -- no?

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,  
5 Mr. Silverman.

6  
7 Councilmember Silverman,  
8 Thank you, Mr. President. Again, of course, being in the pocket of the bike community  
9 as I am, I wanted to, I'm just trying to find the seam.

10  
11 Councilmember Floreen,  
12 I don't see those shorts.

13  
14 Councilmember Silverman,  
15 You don't want to see them.

16  
17 Councilmember Knapp,  
18 We hope never to.

19  
20 Councilmember Floreen,  
21 Luckily for all of us.

22  
23 Councilmember Silverman,  
24 I can't find my e-mail but here's what I remember it saying, there's no issue with regard  
25 to...

26  
27 Councilmember Floreen,  
28 They wanted more money.

29  
30 Councilmember Silverman,  
31 No, no, no, no, no. Of course everybody wants more money, now they want the word  
32 trail to be expanded to be trail and bikeway. So that, in fact, there is some determination  
33 about how the money gets used.

34  
35 Glenn Orlin,  
36 What they're saying they want to have some of this money be able to be used for  
37 sweeping streets, which have bike lanes on them or...

38  
39 Councilmember Knapp,  
40 Right.

41  
42 Councilmember Praisner,



May 9, 2006

1 [INAUDIBLE] Well, we did actually add money for street sweeping.

2  
3 Councilmember Silverman,  
4 Well, they're talking about if it's just money for trail maintenance, the only thing it  
5 theoretically could be used for would be a trail, period, end of sentence. And again it's  
6 kind of like what's the priority within the department. They're looking for trail/bikeway  
7 maintenance, which then would give them the ability to talk with DPWT about what  
8 they're actually going to use the money for, recognizing that it's up to DPWT.

9  
10 Arthur Holmes,  
11 Well we're work with them to see that we give them some equal time to that.

12  
13 Council President Leventhal,  
14 Is there objection to adding the word "bikeway" to the Council's list. Madam Chair, is  
15 that acceptable to...

16  
17 Councilmember Floreen,  
18 Well, we're not correcting a PDF, are we?

19  
20 Steve Nash,  
21 No, we're going to just -- can I make a suggestion?

22  
23 Councilmember Floreen,  
24 Adding some language.

25  
26 Glenn Orlin,  
27 The name of the program.

28  
29 Councilmember Silverman,  
30 Aah, here it is, I'm sorry I just found it. I'm sorry, I just found it. They were suggesting,  
31 this is from Jack Cochran at the Montgomery [INAUDIBLE]. They were suggesting that  
32 that the category should be called "Bikeway Maintenance."

33  
34 Glenn Orlin,  
35 That's what I was just going to say.

36  
37 Councilmember Praisner,  
38 But it's trails, too.

39  
40 Councilmember Silverman,  
41 It is trails too, but it's not exclusively a trail. Bikeways because they're glued by lanes on  
42 roads, if you just change the name of the program to Bikeway Maintenance.





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Is there an objection to changing the program from Trail Maintenance to Bikeway  
4 Maintenance? Is there objection, going once?

5  
6 [LAUGHTER]

7  
8 Council President Leventhal,  
9 If there's an objection, somebody needs to object.

10  
11 Councilmember Perez,  
12 Are there any trails that are being cleared now, are there any non-bikeway trails that this  
13 money is being used for now? Are there any exclusively hiking trails that this money is  
14 being used for now?

15  
16 Arthur Holmes,  
17 I really can't tell you. I just don't know.

18  
19 Glenn Orlin,  
20 The money in the budget is \$50,000 is for DPWT maintained hiker/biker trails, period. It  
21 does not include a maintenance of pieces of roadway, which are bike lanes or bikeways  
22 and as Mr. Cochran was saying some of the money should be used. If you change the  
23 name Bikeway Maintenance it allows more flexibility for the department to use some of  
24 that money for that.

25  
26 Council President Leventhal,  
27 The proposal before the Council is to change the name from trails to bikeway. If we  
28 need to go through the formality of the motion, Mr. Silverman...

29  
30 Multiple Speakers,  
31 That's fine.

32  
33 Council President Leventhal,  
34 It's fine, okay, done, next item.

35  
36 Councilmember Floreen,  
37 Okay, you'll be shocked to hear that there continues to be a backlog of traffic studies.  
38 We all create that and the community requests those. This is basically on the bottom of  
39 page 17. This is a status report on bikeway studies, traffic studies, I'm sorry. Decreased  
40 a little bit, but, of course, we add to it every day so...

41  
42 Councilmember Praisner,



May 9, 2006

1 We have traffic studies on bikeways?

2  
3 Councilmember Floreen,  
4 No, that was a misstatement on my part.

5  
6 Councilmember Praisner,  
7 No, no, I just meant maybe we could amend it.

8  
9 Councilmember Floreen,  
10 I'm sure, in any event, that's where we are. We're continuing to work diligently at this  
11 and we compliment the department for working through these issues. These details of  
12 community are really important, and you folks spend a lot of time working with the  
13 communities and sorting these things out. And we know that not everybody is always  
14 happy but we know that the work is done professionally and responsibly. Incident  
15 management team, unless there's a question. Mr. Knapp.

16  
17 Councilmember Knapp,  
18 I just wanted to compliment you on making progress on reducing those numbers, and to  
19 just thank you for your response in this. I mean, there's long way to go, but it's progress  
20 and it's measurable progress and I've seen it. And the responses that we've gotten back  
21 from the department, I just thank you for your efforts, because I know it's tough when  
22 you've got a lot of competing priorities and will continue to have them but every little bit  
23 helps.

24  
25 Council President Leventhal,  
26 Ms. Praisner.

27  
28 Councilmember Praisner,  
29 I was actually concerned about the increase in backlog on School Zone Safety. And  
30 wondered about if that is one of just a snapshot in time or that we're getting more  
31 School Zone Safety requests, or what's happening on that, because there's a case  
32 where the backlog is increasing, not decreasing. And I was actually concerned about  
33 that. So if you all could get back to us to understand, you have to take a picture  
34 everyday and say we've got these studies, and we haven't gotten to them. And perhaps  
35 that could be discussed in the PHED Committee discussions, Steve? And try to  
36 understand exactly what they are and how they might be improved. Thank you.

37  
38 Council President Leventhal,  
39 Mr. Silverman.

40  
41 Councilmember Silverman,



May 9, 2006

1 Thank you. What is it mean that there's a one-year backlog? Does that mean if  
2 somebody contacts me about an unsafe intersection and I ship this off to you that I can  
3 tell them that they'll get an answer in May of 2007?

4  
5 Councilmember Praisner,  
6 That's what's happening for all of us.

7  
8 Councilmember Silverman,  
9 And remind me again about how much it costs to do these traffic studies? And I guess  
10 you're going to tell me it depends on the traffic study.

11  
12 Arthur Holmes,  
13 It does but if you ask me to give you the range I could not give you the range but I'll  
14 provide it to you.

15  
16 Councilmember Silverman,  
17 Well, let me ask you this. Is there a prioritization within the department, I mean, in other  
18 words,...

19  
20 Arthur Holmes,  
21 Yes.

22  
23 Councilmember Silverman,  
24 ...are, you know, permit parking studies, is there a cue is what I'm asking?

25  
26 Arthur Holmes,  
27 There is a, some triage done to the requests as they come in, and safety. There are  
28 things that go to the front of the cue. So that it's not just if you come in, number one,  
29 you're number one.

30  
31 Councilmember Silverman,  
32 Like a deli.

33  
34 Arthur Holmes,  
35 Huh?

36  
37 Councilmember Silverman,  
38 Like a deli.

39  
40 Arthur Holmes,  
41 No.



May 9, 2006

Councilmember Silverman,  
You know like, now serving 47.

Arthur Holmes,  
And then in some of the instances you've seen where some have not gone down. What  
you don't see, those that come in and you turn them over right away.

Councilmember Silverman,  
So what did we get for \$63,600?

Arthur Holmes,  
You got about a 13% reduction in the numbers.

Councilmember Silverman,  
Okay.

Arthur Holmes,  
Again, when you look at that, and you say 13%, you also got to realize that coming from  
you, both, or a number of them that would not be there.

Councilmember Praisner,  
I do too.

Councilmember Floreen,  
We all do.

Arthur Holmes,  
I think you know that, sir.

Councilmember Silverman,  
There are a couple.

[LAUGHTER]

Glenn Orlin,  
And it's a 28% reduction from two years ago.

Unidentified Speaker,  
Yes, sir.

Councilmember Silverman,



May 9, 2006

1 All right. Thank you.

2  
3 Council President Leventhal,  
4 Okay, Mr. Perez, did you want to comment?

5  
6 Councilmember Perez,  
7 No, sir.

8  
9 Council President Leventhal,  
10 Okay, Chairwoman Floreen.

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 Incident management team, well, we're trying. It's a little too early to tell as to the  
14 effectiveness of this program. It just, it really got started a little bit later than we had  
15 hoped for previously. Full-time operators weren't hired until...

16  
17 Arthur Holmes,  
18 We will have something shortly, and we'll share it with the Council.

19  
20 Councilmember Floreen,  
21 Yeah, so this is just an updated started. It's responding to two to three incidents a day  
22 and it does not operate on the weekends however. Question?

23  
24 Council President Leventhal,  
25 I would just observe when you talk about gridlock, accidents are the biggest cause of  
26 actual not moving.

27  
28 Arthur Holmes,  
29 That's right.

30  
31 Council President Leventhal,  
32 Merely being stuck, and what frustrates motorists more than anything has very little to  
33 do with investment in infrastructure, or growth in residential development or the absence  
34 or presence of new roads, or anything else. It's just some idiot crashed into some other  
35 idiot in front of them.

36  
37 Councilmember Silverman,  
38 Trying to end accidents.

39  
40 [LAUGHTER]

41  
42 Multiple Speakers,



May 9, 2006

1 [INAUDIBLE]

2  
3 Council President Leventhal,  
4 Okay. Mr. Andrews.

5  
6 Councilmember Andrews,  
7 I think this is an important part of traffic relief and the Federal Highway Administration  
8 studies show that 50% to 60% of congestion at least on federal highways is caused by  
9 disabled cars and accidents.

10  
11 Arthur Holmes,  
12 And the information out of the Texas Transportation Institute the same thing. And if you  
13 can just move them, you're not trying to get them to just to get them off the roads then  
14 we can go.

15  
16 Councilmember Andrews,  
17 And try to move them, ideally you want to move them out of sight because people still  
18 slow down when there's stuff on the side of the road, but certainly you want to get them  
19 out of the road first. Where are the two folks stationed who are assigned to this now,  
20 where do they plant themselves near the belt way or what do they do?

21  
22 Arthur Holmes,  
23 Well no, they go over an area and I don't have a map, but they don't just plant  
24 themselves, they start to move around within the areas here both at in the morning and  
25 in the afternoon.

26  
27 Councilmember Andrews,  
28 Okay.

29  
30 Arthur Holmes,  
31 And in the most congested areas what they're looking at are like around the Georgia  
32 Avenue corridor.

33  
34 Councilmember Andrews,  
35 So they're actually patrolling.

36  
37 Arthur Holmes,  
38 They're patrolling. They're not sitting wait for something.

39  
40 Councilmember Andrews,  
41 They're not simply on call waiting in a stationary location. They're patrolling, looking out,  
42 seeing what they're seeing. Okay, all right, I think it is important to document as much



May 9, 2006

1 as you can the impact that they're having. It's indicated in the logs how long it takes  
2 them to how quickly they're clearing the vehicles, that's good that's in the packet.  
3 Measuring the reduction in congestion is more difficult. But certainly you reduce the  
4 accordion effect the faster you get the cars out of there that are disabled. So, I think it's  
5 an important part and it's not a lot of money and perhaps with two vehicles right now,  
6 there's not a lot of impact. But if you can clear an accident in 10 minutes rather than 20  
7 it makes a big difference for a lot of people.

8  
9 Arthur Holmes,  
10 Right now they are saying the average time per incident is about 18.

11  
12 Councilmember Andrews,  
13 18, and if it would have been a half-hour, that's a big difference. Okay, thank you.

14  
15 Council President Leventhal,  
16 Okay, Madam Chair.

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 Continuing right along, we've got tree maintenance, Glenn points out this is the year of  
20 the tree. All together, we should put that in the copy of the final resolution I suppose.  
21 The...

22  
23 Councilmember Silverman,  
24 Don't issue a press release too early, Ms. Floreen...

25  
26 Councilmember Floreen,  
27 The day is young still, indeed. All together, the County's investment in trees at this point  
28 would be the largest investment over the past two decades, which is interesting. What  
29 we're discussing here is also additional \$1.3 million for tree maintenance and planting in  
30 fiscal '07, as well as some additional dollars for removing foliage obstructing traffic  
31 control devices. And the T&E Committee is all for that.

32  
33 Council President Leventhal,  
34 There's bunch of questions on tree maintenance.

35  
36 Councilmember Floreen,  
37 Keep going.

38  
39 Council President Leventhal,  
40 Mr. Andrews. No.

41  
42 Councilmember Andrews,





May 9, 2006

1 The amount that's proposed for removing foliage that's obstructing traffic control devices  
2 is \$164,000. It's a very specific amount...

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 A pair of clippers.

6  
7 Councilmember Silverman,  
8 They're very large clippers.

9  
10 Councilmember Andrews,  
11 A calculation that went into that but the packet notes that the county was successfully  
12 sued for \$400,000, due to a fatality that was judged to be caused partly as a result of a  
13 stop sign obscured by foliage. Do the liability here is significant if there's a problem. Are  
14 you confident that you can clear all the foliage that you think needs to be clear for the  
15 amount that's currently proposed?

16  
17 Arthur Holmes,  
18 Well, we have I think in there what 900 and some \$60,000.

19  
20 Councilmember Andrews,  
21 Well, there's \$164,000 for removing foliage obstructing traffic control devices.

22  
23 Glenn Orlin,  
24 That's [INAUDIBLE] the increase.

25  
26 Arthur Holmes,  
27 Say again?

28  
29 Councilmember Andrews,  
30 That's the increase?

31  
32 Glenn Orlin,  
33 Is that the increase over last year?

34  
35 Arthur Holmes,  
36 What, the \$164,000? Yes.

37  
38 Councilmember Andrews,  
39 Doesn't say that, okay.

40  
41 Steve Nash,



May 9, 2006

1 If I can add, in that particular -- now this is not related to the tree maintenance. This is  
2 separate from the tree maintenance program and this actually is an individual in a  
3 vehicle that will be driving around. I say engineer that's got some sense of the traffic. He  
4 could care less about trees and limbs and whatever. He's going to focus on signage on  
5 lights, whether it's trees, whether it's limbs whether it's bamboo, morning glory vines,  
6 whatever.

7  
8 Councilmember Andrews,  
9 Their job is to keep the signs clear.

10  
11 Steve Nash,  
12 Yes.

13  
14 Councilmember Andrews,  
15 Okay, well I think if you find that they can't get it done with that budget, I hope you'll  
16 come back because the liability here is high.

17  
18 Arthur Holmes,  
19 Okay.

20  
21 Council President Leventhal,  
22 Ms. Praisner.

23  
24 Councilmember Praisner,  
25 Not today but when we do discuss the Department of Environmental Protection budget  
26 I'd like to have a little further conversation about the responsibility of DEP versus the  
27 responsibility of DPWT, when comes to trees and tree maintenance, since this makes  
28 reference to a shifting of the program. It seems to me there is still an ongoing need for  
29 DEP's engagement and involvement on the issues of trees. And so I want to have that  
30 conversation. Then I also want to relate it to the next item that we're talking about which  
31 is the National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System requirements and its  
32 relationship to DEP as well as its relationship to DPWT. And I would prefer given the  
33 fact that we're so far behind in the schedule today to bring that up when we talk about  
34 the DEP.

35  
36 Arthur Holmes,  
37 There has been some shifting of responsibilities.

38  
39 Council President Leventhal,  
40 Go ahead, Ms. Floreen.

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 Okay, Marilyn brought up the next item, National Pollutants Discharge Elimination  
2 System. Basically they're adding an additional position to help them with their  
3 compliance. Next item Asset Management Maintenance System. They are moving  
4 forward on a multi-year effort to obtain a maintenance management in inventory control  
5 software. They've gotten proposals and they're in the process of negotiation. We  
6 recommend adding a \$100,000 for the next phase of this work on the Reconciliation  
7 List. Next category is Mass Transit Fund. The good news is that our ridership on our  
8 Ride On system has increased by 9.5% this year, and the previous year it had been  
9 8.5%. So there've been some regular increases, and we're pleased to see that. There  
10 are no fare increases proposed but there are a number of initiatives before you to  
11 supplement the accessibility of transit service in the County. The County Executive is  
12 recommending augmenting service on 24 of the routes by improving their frequency and  
13 this is going to cost us about \$2.5 million on an annual basis including 25 more bus  
14 drivers plus fuel. And we, the Committee supports that initiative.

15  
16 Council President Leventhal,  
17 There are no questions, keep going.

18  
19 Councilmember Floreen,  
20 The County Executive also recommends buying 44 new buses on the '07 budget. Nine  
21 full-size hybrid electric buses, eight full-size buses powered with compressed natural  
22 gas, and 27 small diesel buses, which the Committee also supports.

23  
24 Council President Leventhal,  
25 Keep going.

26  
27 Councilmember Floreen,  
28 And including the 27 diesels. The bus service issues are of interests on page 21. Most  
29 routes need Ride On performance standards. There are a couple of routes that bear  
30 significant watching during fiscal '07, and it is good to know that DPWT is watching this  
31 issue carefully. Bus shelters are underway. The agreement with Clear Channel.

32  
33 Council President Leventhal,  
34 Mr. Knapp has a question.

35  
36 Councilmember Knapp,  
37 Thanks. This is just one of those flaky ideas but looking at the route, route 124.

38  
39 Councilmember Silverman,  
40 Yours or someone else's?

41  
42 Councilmember Knapp,



May 9, 2006

1 Actually it was, well, a combination.

2  
3 Councilmember Floreen,  
4 Sure it's a thoughtful...

5  
6 Councilmember Knapp,  
7 Looking at route 14 and the Park and Ride lot that we have here and then looking at the  
8 other side of, actually just down the road, the new state lot that we have that is basically  
9 used for retail truck parking, all of the various vendors one of the issues that we have  
10 run into is, as I think you're aware, parking on a number of our wider streets, and this  
11 happens, it's a big issue in Montgomery Village, it's a big issue on four or five streets in  
12 Germantown, and I know it's an issue in other parts of the County, One of the things  
13 that people have raised is there a single place to encourage people to actually park  
14 there, trucks there, Frito-lay trucks, their tractor-trailers...

15  
16 Council President Leventhal,  
17 What about boats.

18  
19 Councilmember Knapp,  
20 Boats, we actually have two lots that are relatively unoccupied and I just put that out  
21 there are for consideration. The one lot is already half the market [INAUDIBLE] have  
22 already taken over the state lot, and people are already parking there, because they  
23 recognized it is well lit and well traveled, so it's a relatively safe area to park their  
24 vehicle. But to look at either of these lots, I just put that out there as an idea for further  
25 consideration. Because from what I can tell there's no good policy directive we can take,  
26 because half the people have the need to park their vehicles, and can't park them in  
27 their communities, because HOA have covenants against them, and the other half are  
28 frustrated because there are potentially safety hazards and they're eyesores, and so  
29 there's a place to consolidate them in lots relatively unoccupied. Perhaps that is  
30 something that we can explore.

31  
32 Arthur Holmes,  
33 The only thing that would give me pause is the liability aspects of having them on their  
34 property and something else happens to them and that's something that you have to  
35 look at very carefully.

36  
37 Councilmember Knapp,  
38 And we don't need an answer today, but that's something I wanted to put out there and  
39 if he could we could talk about it further.

40  
41 Glenn Orlin,



May 9, 2006

1 If it's overnight parking it might not be as much of a problem, but if it's more than  
2 [INAUDIBLE], then it's attacking the basic function of what those parking lots are  
3 supposed to be for. So it's a real...

4  
5 Councilmember Knapp,  
6 Just a idea.

7  
8 Council President Leventhal,  
9 Ms. Praisner.

10  
11 Councilmember Praisner,  
12 Actually Mr. Knapp's concern is one that we receive complaints about as well and I can't  
13 imagine, which is inappropriate parking or vehicles that are sitting long periods of time  
14 and the challenge of finding parking spaces. On the flip side, I've received complaints in  
15 the past from communities that have a Park and Ride lot near them about inappropriate  
16 parking in the Park and Ride lots, because vehicles are sitting there too long or they're  
17 the large-haul vehicles. I think it's a challenge that we need to look at from a standpoint  
18 of the evolution of small businesses in this County to a great extent, because some of  
19 these folks weather, it's landscaping equipment, et cetera, there are issues, but I'm not  
20 sure what the government role is, or where the liability issue interjects itself, but it's  
21 something that I'd be something I'd be interested in working on as well.

22  
23 Council President Leventhal,  
24 Ms. Floreen.

25  
26 Councilmember Floreen,  
27 Okay, there's brief update with respect to the status of the bus shelter agreement with  
28 Clear Channel. Some are installed and more are coming. We did, the T&E Committee  
29 basically was unanimous about most things but we were afraid that the Council would  
30 get bored, and so we left you a couple items to resolve. One of them is bus advertising.  
31 Mr. Orlin recommends that we pursue a RFP for a program of advertising on Ride On  
32 buses. Mr. Leventhal and I had different views, and Tom wasn't able to join us.

33  
34 Councilmember Perez,  
35 I'm with Ms. Floreen on this.

36  
37 Councilmember Floreen,  
38 Okay, we've taken away that issue. The Committee recommends that we proceed to  
39 continue what we have tried previously.

40  
41 Council President Leventhal,  
42 To issue another useless solicitation.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Floreen,  
3 I'm sorry?

4  
5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 To issue another unproductive and useless solicitation.

7  
8 Councilmember Floreen,  
9 Well, you know, we're trying to support our transit initiative.

10  
11 Council President Leventhal,  
12 Transport our RFP industry.

13  
14 Councilmember Floreen,  
15 That's the Committee recommendation.

16  
17 Council President Leventhal,  
18 Mr. Silverman.

19  
20 Councilmember Silverman,  
21 Thank you, Mr. President. Glenn, in the FY '05 budget, we assumed revenue?

22  
23 Glenn Orlin,  
24 Right.

25  
26 Councilmember Silverman,  
27 Did we assume revenue in FY '06?

28  
29 Glenn Orlin,  
30 No.

31  
32 Councilmember Silverman,  
33 No, okay, so your recommendation is not to assume revenue.

34  
35 Glenn Orlin,  
36 Based on past experience...

37  
38 Councilmember Silverman,  
39 Best we luck out.

40  
41 Councilmember Praisner,  
42 It will be a windfall.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Floreen,  
3 Mr. Orlin wants to be positive and creative.

4  
5 Councilmember Silverman,  
6 Thanks.

7  
8 Councilmember Floreen,  
9 We're going to give him a chance. Taxi regulation, as you know, we're doing it and  
10 there's an increase in the budget to annualize the cost approved last year and fully  
11 funded the secret rider program that we reduced last year. Call and ride is ongoing. As  
12 you will recall it's a transportation program for low-income seniors and low-income  
13 persons with disabilities. The County Executive recommends no change in the eligibility  
14 rules, but recommends adding additional money, a little over \$800,000, to the taxi  
15 reimbursement budget to handle the continuing growth of the use of con ride plus higher  
16 taxi rates, and this would allow the value of monthly coupon books to increase a modest  
17 amount.

18  
19 Council President Leventhal,  
20 Ms. Praisner has her light on.

21  
22 Councilmember Praisner,  
23 Yeah, I'm sorry. I was so carried away by the enthusiasm for bus advertising that I  
24 forgot to raise an issue. I just wanted to thank the department for the way in which folks  
25 have approached the need to involve the community when the new buses come for  
26 route realignments, and especially the cases where we are substituting Ride On for  
27 Metro buses. There have been some significant challenges in the last two years. Thank  
28 the department for their engagement on these issues, and Carol and I hope we can  
29 schedule the appropriate meetings with the community before the ink is final on the  
30 routes that will be used, so they can have some comments and involvement on that.  
31 That was the problem with Metro, so let's learn the lesson from what happened with  
32 Metro. Thank you.

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,  
35 Mr. Knapp.

36  
37 Councilmember Knapp,  
38 Thank you, Mr. President. Back to the bus shelters. I apologize, I missed that too. First  
39 thank you, because I think the implementation is going well, and they look great in the  
40 places that they are. The question I have what is the responsibility for any vandalism or  
41 graffiti? Where does the contractor have responsibility for versus what's the County  
42 have responsibility for?





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Arthur Holmes,  
3 He maintains, that it's not on...

4  
5 Carolyn Biggins,  
6 Basically the contractor is responsible for them. So if there's graffiti or something like  
7 that, we ask the contractor to go out and take care of that. If there is trash, we collect  
8 the trash at the stops with the trash cans, but they collect the trash around the shelter  
9 area up to 15 feet around, like on the ground.

10  
11 Councilmember Knapp,  
12 My concern is this, that we've got bus shelters in places that never had bus shelters,  
13 which I think is great. The problem is that that also creates an opportunity for kids to do  
14 things that they didn't have an opportunity to do before, which has an opportunity of  
15 creating a real eyesore because now you've got a trashed bus shelter. And I just am  
16 curious as to, do they have to, if something happens do they replace it once, is the  
17 contractor on the hook for as many times as they have a problem. How do they monitor  
18 that? I think they look great, I just want to make sure they keep looking great.

19  
20 Arthur Holmes,  
21 We have people that go out and monitor these places, and right now there is no cut off  
22 as far as the maintenance. Contract as it's set forth now they're the ones that maintain  
23 them as Carolyn has indicated.

24  
25 Councilmember Knapp,  
26 Okay, all right, thank you.

27  
28 Council President Leventhal,  
29 Okay, Mr. Perez, your light is on.

30  
31 Councilmember Perez,  
32 I'm sorry.

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,  
35 Okay.

36  
37 [LAUGHTER]

38  
39 Councilmember Knapp,  
40 Just for anything or...

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 It applies to everything.

2  
3 Council President Leventhal,  
4 For the record, Mr. Perez apologizes. Chairwoman Floreen.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 Okay. Apparently some years ago we hired an independent consultant to compare the  
8 value of Ride On versus Metrobus costs so we could see what was a better deal. And  
9 apparently right now it's more cost effective for the County to add on Ride On service  
10 rather than Metro ride service, so that's the update on that. Council transit initiatives. We  
11 have a variety, and again, I would he refer you to page 15 of the budget analysis that  
12 shows what the Committee recommendations are on this, basically we proposed  
13 several transit initiatives costs. Mr. Silverman and I propose two transit initiatives  
14 costing about two million. One as six month Free Wheeling Days promotion, which  
15 would allow free Ride On five specific Metrobus routes, and 20 particular Ride On bus  
16 routes from September through February. They worked pretty well in the past.  
17 Ultimately those ridership on such routes have increased by about 11%. During that  
18 period, about half of which continued to ride once the promotion was discontinued. And  
19 so it seemed the Committee agrees and recommends... these were the two, five...

20  
21 Glenn Orlin,  
22 Right, the Freewheeling Days was in two increments.

23  
24 Councilmember Floreen,  
25 Two \$500,000 increments.

26  
27 Glenn Orlin,  
28 Roughly.

29  
30 Councilmember Floreen,  
31 Because those were the smallest effective dollar amounts to be associated with those.  
32 So the Committee agrees and proposes putting them on the Reconciliation List along  
33 with everything else. The other...

34  
35 Councilmember Praisner,  
36 Our goal is the requisition list larger than the budget?

37  
38 Councilmember Floreen,  
39 Well...

40  
41 Councilmember Praisner,  
42 We're getting there.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Silverman,  
3 Right it's only Tuesday.

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 Yeah, this is just the beginning.

7  
8 Council President Leventhal,  
9 Mr. Holmes.

10  
11 Carolyn Biggins,  
12 If I can just make one point. In the reduction of the Free Wheeling we need to make  
13 sure that whatever level we choose as far as the routes go that we have some money in  
14 there for public notification.

15  
16 Councilmember Floreen,  
17 Right, and we did talk about that, and it was unfortunate last time we did that. You had  
18 to end up doing what you had done for cost reasons, and we're very hopeful that that  
19 won't have to happen again. It is a lot of work and we appreciate that. The next element  
20 of is to increase the budget for Fare Share, Super Fare Share and related programs.  
21 This would encourage the number of employees in the County Business Districts to use  
22 transit. There are a couple of ways to split the baby in this category, but the  
23 fundamental initiative would be to add -- which the Committee supported -- would be to  
24 propose four \$250,000 increments of initiatives in this regard, and we can see what  
25 makes it through. Obviously anyway we can get to people on to bus, on to transit and  
26 our Metro center areas in particular is a key way to addressing congestion. Mr. Andrews  
27 has... More questions, questions on this one?

28  
29 Council President Leventhal,  
30 Ms. Praisner?

31  
32 Councilmember Praisner,  
33 Yeah, the subsidy program in high congestion areas raised a question for me, because  
34 it's focused in the County's business districts and it seemed to me that he there might  
35 be, when we look at the TMD initiatives we might wants to look at perhaps this being  
36 defined, just as our bike ways and trails. I don't want us and maybe the dollar amount is  
37 so small, I don't want it to be exclusively in Central Business Districts. If there are places  
38 where the initiative could help with the TMD funding in a non-Central Business Districts.  
39 For example, White Oak, where the FDA's presence and some of the other efforts, and  
40 putting the new bus shelter, bus center, transit center might be able to maximize more  
41 commuter use of public transportation. So I know we're looking at the EIS and the TMD  
42 initiatives that FDA has at White Oak. I happen to think that while they're nice they need



May 9, 2006

1 to go further. And we have some of that initiative with the federal government. But I  
2 really hope that we look at this in a broader sense than just the CBD.

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,  
5 Mr. Silverman.

6  
7 Councilmember Silverman,  
8 Thank you, Mr. President. Yeah, I want to echo Marilyn's comments. I think the goal is  
9 to get cars off the road. No, no, I'm sorry, the goal is to get cars off the road in places  
10 where we know there is congestion. Trust me, White Oak certainly falls into that  
11 category. But the idea is not to -- at least my idea is not to spend money in places  
12 where, quite frankly, there's a car there it doesn't make difference.

13  
14 Arthur Holmes,  
15 I think you were talking about areas like White Oak or places like that, that might come  
16 outside, but you can have a program for a high density area.

17  
18 Councilmember Silverman,  
19 Sure. In other words, I know you get it. I know how hard everybody's working at this. I  
20 think this is one of those rare things that you actually could throw money at a problem  
21 because there are more companies and more employees who would take advantage of  
22 this program if it was available. And the idea is, and I think we highlighted things like  
23 Bethesda and Friendship Heights, simply because there's clearly no road solutions in  
24 those places. There's no road solution in White Oak either.

25  
26 Carolyn Biggins,  
27 And I think you can do it as long as you don't tie it to TMD fees. If this is generation of  
28 the TMD fees, then we couldn't spend it outside of the TMD.

29  
30 Councilmember Praisner,  
31 And that was my point. I'm sorry, Ms. Biggins, that was my point, I didn't want it if we  
32 can be clear and it could be done. I didn't -- obviously you wouldn't use TMD money. I  
33 just wanted to identify White Oak, which obviously falls out of all of those categories.  
34 Okay. Nancy.

35  
36 Councilmember Floreen,  
37 Okay. Next, Councilmember Andrews has proposed a great idea, I think, which is to  
38 establish a program to allow seniors and disabled to ride free on Ride On and Metro  
39 buses midday and weekends. On weekdays -- I'm sorry, between -- in the non-rush  
40 hour periods. The Committee endorses that and recommends that \$250,000 be put in  
41 the Reconciliation List to support that. Do you want to speak to that?



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 Yes, Mr. Andrews.

4  
5 Councilmember Andrews,  
6 Thank you very much. I very much appreciate the Committee's strong support. I had a  
7 chance to meet when Hal [Wollock] and Les [Trackman] of the Commission on Aging a  
8 month or two ago, and we talked about the need to improve access to seniors to  
9 transportation, and I think this proposal achieves a number of goals, or it should achieve  
10 them, and that is that it targets the free rides on Ride On, and I hope Metrobus as well,  
11 since a lot of the counties just serve by Metrobus. During those hours of the day when  
12 senior facilities and other facilities are almost always open. And so that will promote  
13 more, the ability of more seniors to actually get out during the middle of the day when  
14 those facilities are open which according to the Commission on Aging's testimony the  
15 packet on Circle 153, the packet has under you a number of studies has been found to  
16 be very important to increase social contact of seniors and this should promote that.  
17 Second, it will, I think, use the existing bus capacity better because a number of Ride  
18 On buses in the middle of the day are not at capacity. And so it should help fill those  
19 seats without any additional costs of adding a bus routes, or adding a bus, and thus  
20 using fixed costs better. And third, it may free up some seats from rush hour routes that  
21 folks who have no flexibility as to when they can ride will benefit from. There are a lot of  
22 people that have to ride during rush hour but there are some that don't. So it may  
23 actually result in a little bit of a shift from those that don't have to ride during rush hour to  
24 riding at this time. So it's targeted to accomplish those goals at what I think will be a  
25 modest cost. The estimate is \$125,000 and foregone revenue for the Ride On portion  
26 and \$125,000 that would be required to pay Metro for the same access on Metrobus. So  
27 I appreciate the Committee's support and I hope that the full Council will support it as  
28 well.

29  
30 Councilmember Floreen,  
31 Thank you. The, page 25, Glenn has just noted that these issues of the lost revenue  
32 and the cost of these proposals as well as the likelihood of recurrence or not. Free  
33 Wheeling Days would be a sort of a one-shot effort this year. The subsidy programs and  
34 free bus service not likely to be a one-time effort.

35  
36 Councilmember Praisner,  
37 I think doesn't this list also, suggest some other options that the Committee didn't  
38 necessarily recommend?

39  
40 Councilmember Floreen,  
41 That's correct.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Praisner,  
3 Correct?

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 That's right.

7  
8 Councilmember Praisner,  
9 I had a question as it related to the car-sharing. We don't have a program like that now.  
10 Correct?

11  
12 Carolyn Biggins,  
13 Correct.

14  
15 Councilmember Praisner,  
16 So it would be starting up as well as, and only \$50,000 would be necessary for that?

17  
18 Carolyn Biggins,  
19 As a startup.

20  
21 Councilmember Praisner,  
22 As a startup. What would be the long-term--  
23 Councilmember Silverman,  
24 You get a Cooper.

25  
26 [LAUGHTER]

27  
28 Councilmember Silverman,  
29 ...Mini Cooper cars.

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 I just, let's not take the time right now, I just would be curious about what the long-term.  
33 It's an interesting, I've seen it start to be used fairly successfully in other places, and it's  
34 something that I think we need to look at. I mean, if folks felt that in an emergency or in  
35 certain situations they'd have the availability of a car issues, car-sharing kinds of  
36 concepts. I think as you start to calculate, insurance, maintenance, gasoline, and the  
37 alternative options with public transportation that you can rely on as well, I think there's  
38 going to be more and more interests in that. I just am a little dubious about the costs  
39 and are projecting the long-term implications. So I'd like to see more of that and perhaps  
40 we can convince some folks to work with us on this issue. Thank you. Keep going  
41 Nancy.



May 9, 2006

Councilmember Floreen,

Mr. Orlin had a number of good ideas that we thought, maybe another time. TMD fees, as you will recall, we took it upon ourselves the joy of establishing fees, which meant we had to establish them and work out the details. And you will see that he we have some recommendations on page 27. One is to establish a TMD fee of 2.5 cents. Square foot for each full quarter and fiscal '07 after an use and occupancy permit has been issued. Using the definitions and the development impact tax law applied a fee to commercial space before July 1st, 2006. Only where payment of a fee is explicitly required as a condition of development approval, and to apply it to all new commercial space occupied on or after July 1st, 2006. It turns out there was unclear language in various forms of approval issued. Mr. Holmes during your time and mine, I think, back there at the Planning Board, mistakes we've made and learned from.

Councilmember Praisner,

Nancy, on that issue, have we communicated to Park and Planning staff the need.

Councilmember Floreen,

We told them from now on we'd use the right words, yes.

Councilmember Praisner,

And is the, is it a question where there is language but it isn't strong enough or...

Councilmember Floreen,

Well, they said cooperate, participate, it's not clear and we pointed out that there are various ways that applicants have understood their obligations to be implemented.

Glenn Orlin,

Many of these agreements were crafted years ago, and it was before the Bill 2-02 passed the Council, which requires every member of 25 or more within a TMB to participate, and the earlier agreement said that these individual developers, developments to participate. They were in Silver Spring from even years before, it said they had to cooperate with transportation management. So a lot of this is sort of judging these old agreements, I think sort of unfairly in a sense because there wasn't a context. In hindsight we know what should be done, but the bottom line is we can't change the agreements now.

Councilmember Floreen,

This seemed fairest and clearest. So that's our recommendation on those elements. And that translates into assumptions with respect to TMD fee revenue and the mass transit fun, that's shown on the bottom of page 29. There is an issue associated, let's





May 9, 2006

1 see, it's with the Bethesda. Do you want me to explain this one? Yeah, why don't you  
2 explain this.

3  
4 Glenn Orlin,

5 Yeah this is on page 29 the bottom you'll see three bullet recommendations from the  
6 Committee. It's the second one. The when I was putting together the packet, it was  
7 identified that about \$79,570 was the increase in the budget so the four TMD's in '07  
8 that the Executive's recommending over '06. What the Committee had talked about, and  
9 what the Council had actually talked about, when you establishing the idea you could  
10 have TMD fees, was although it's not in the law the since is you did not want to use  
11 TMD fees to supplant sources of revenue that had been [INAUDIBLE] use it for more.  
12 The question now is where do you draw the line and in my recommendation you draw  
13 line at the approved '06 budget. The TMD Advisory Committees and the contractors  
14 running TMD's are advocating saying no, it should be at least what the Executive is  
15 recommending for the '07 budget. That's part of the difference, the other thing is, and  
16 the Committee basically agreed with my recommendation.

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 We agreed with it.

20  
21 Glenn Orlin,

22 Generically, but my assumption was that the \$79,570 would be TMD fees supplanting  
23 property tax, mass transit property tax revenue. In Bethesda all of the money for the  
24 TMD is actually coming from the Bethesda PLD. To the extent that, for example, in  
25 Bethesda you wanted to use the TMD funds to supplant existing sources it would be  
26 less of a transfer from Bethesda PLD. Alternatively if you didn't want to do that you can  
27 say just take this fee money... too much?

28  
29 Councilmember Praisner,  
30 No fine, keep going.

31  
32 Councilmember Perez,

33 The TMD money is coming from the PLD. Is that the for the CBDs?

34  
35 [LAUGHTER]

36  
37 Glenn Orlin,  
38 A-okay!

39  
40 Councilmember Floreen,  
41 Let's not keep digging, Glenn.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Glenn Orlin,  
3 This discussion will last an hour if I spell them all out. The question what do you want to  
4 do with Bethesda?

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 We have a recommendation.

8  
9 Glenn Orlin,  
10 What do you do with a problem like Bethesda?

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 So that's our recommendation on the mass transit fund.

14  
15 Glenn Orlin,  
16 Really you need to make a decision on Bethesda. Do you want to supplant, reduce the  
17 PLD transfer by the \$36,000? Or do you want to say instead, "No, continue with the  
18 PLD transfers the Executive's recommended," in which case, the TMD fee money, all  
19 the TMD money from Bethesda would essentially go within an account, which would not  
20 be appropriated but later -- either later in the year or maybe for next year the Bethesda  
21 TMD would recommend uses for the money. You need to make that decision.

22  
23 Councilmember Floreen,  
24 Well, yeah, and that's our recommendation to use this money this way.

25  
26 Glenn Orlin,  
27 [INAUDIBLE] budget, so, I'm sorry?

28  
29 Councilmember Floreen,  
30 The Committee recommendation is to use the TMD revenue to supplant the mass  
31 transit.

32  
33 Glenn Orlin,  
34 I know but that he, that's what I'm saying. That's not true anymore. That was a mistake.  
35 All the money from the Bethesda TMD is coming from the Bethesda PLD. So the  
36 question is whether or not you want to reduce the PLD transfer by \$36,000 and use the  
37 TMD fees, or just agree with the Executive that the PLD funds will continue to be used  
38 for their budget? And the fee money that will be coming in, effectively, will not be  
39 appropriated. It'll just go into the account, it will build up an amount, which, again later in  
40 the year BTS or the department can request the money.

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 Let's go with the Executive's approach.

2  
3 Glenn Orlin,  
4 Okay.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 Okay.

8  
9 Glenn Orlin,  
10 Sorry about that.

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 Parking District Fund, there really is no change in -- the Committee recommends no  
14 change to County Executive recommendations here, except there's one little proposal to  
15 which is to address the need of folks living in townhouses within the PLD's to give them  
16 some flexibility for parking. So the proposal at the top of page 32 is to basically establish  
17 a permit process for each of the Parking Lot Districts that would allow townhouse  
18 residents to use long-term meters for a modest permit cost.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 Ms. Praisner.

22  
23 Councilmember Praisner,  
24 I think that I'm okay with the recommendation, but I think that this needs further review  
25 and a broader policy sense over the long run, because it relates to assumptions being  
26 made by Park and Planning when they approve townhouse developmental in Central  
27 Business Districts and assumptions for how many parking spaces, et cetera, as well.  
28 And we also, I think need to monitor to make sure that what the implications of this is  
29 both in lost revenue and in parking space calculations. The extent to which townhouse  
30 development increases. Does this allow them to purchase guest parking as well as part  
31 of that? Once you allow them to buy resident permit, don't they get guest permits, isn't  
32 that part of the process?

33  
34 Councilmember Floreen,  
35 Ms. Praisner, it was viewed as a very modest issue in terms of the number of units.

36  
37 Councilmember Praisner,  
38 At this point in time, it may be very modest. I just think it's important for us to understand  
39 all of the issues that may not have been raised as yet, like the increasing number, what  
40 Park and Planning may require when they approve projects and the assumptions  
41 associated and the issue of guest permits. I think that needs to be looked at over the  
42 long run.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Glenn Orlin,  
3 I understand.

4  
5 Councilmember Praisner,  
6 And we need to keep track of what the impacts are and the CBD's or the parking  
7 districts I guess to use the wrong acronym.

8  
9 Councilmember Floreen,  
10 Anybody else?

11  
12 Councilmember Praisner,  
13 No.

14  
15 Councilmember Floreen,  
16 Okay, last two items in this packet on, we recommend support for the County  
17 Executive's recommendation for the Homeowners' Road Maintenance Reimbursement  
18 Account and for the Rockville Parking District. And that's that. On items eight through  
19 14. Moving right along, let's see here.

20  
21 Councilmember Praisner,  
22 While we're waiting, I wanted to comment to Glenn that I appreciate your efforts to try to  
23 do an overview. I would request obviously it's because it's one packet and we've got the  
24 CIP ahead of it. But I think in the future we might want to continue to massage that to  
25 look at other measures and things that we would want to look at. But I think it's great to  
26 have the overview, thank you.

27  
28 Glenn Orlin,  
29 Sure.

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 Next item.

33  
34 Councilmember Floreen,  
35 Okay. Next item is recommendations on [INAUDIBLE] programs, we have Mr. Sherer  
36 Councilmember Praisner,  
37 Not here yet.

38  
39 Unidentified Speaker,  
40 Chuck, you're on.

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 Chuck. Well, Well just go through it. It's not actually...

2  
3 Councilmember Praisner,  
4 I thought I saw Sonya, we can deal with Sonya and solid waste.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 This isn't too complicated. There is the major issue here has to do with sorting out the  
8 deferred maintenance issues. And we have all collectively raised questions about  
9 [INAUDIBLE] needs for facility maintenance and grounds maintenance and so forth.  
10 And what we discovered is that with the work that's been done in HHS and the work  
11 that's been done in PHED we more or less tripped over each other in trying to address  
12 this issue. So, basically we are I think, in collective agreement that we need to do more  
13 to address deferred maintenance issues in libraries, recreational, and in general  
14 maintenance of recreational facilities, and the like. Let's see. Where is the list? Circle  
15 19. They ask DPWT to sort this out. The total numbers associated with deferred  
16 maintenance come out to \$1.3 million, right? That's the total between the different  
17 Committees? Is that right?

18  
19 Unidentified Speaker,  
20 That's correct, \$1.3 million.

21  
22 Councilmember Floreen,  
23 And so just ask staff to get us on the same page as to the various Committee  
24 recommendations on this. It's also shown on Circle 20. Basically putting on the  
25 Reconciliation List in a way that is clear enough which department would be associated  
26 with it and what the costs were showing \$200,000 for maintenance at libraries that's we  
27 know T&E and HHS and two increments of \$200,000. Another \$140,000 from the T&E  
28 Committee with respect to that on the list. \$310,000 associated with recreation facilities,  
29 \$150,000 associated with Health and Human Services facilities, and \$350,000  
30 associated with public safety and general government. Do I have that right? Yes.

31  
32 Arthur Holmes,  
33 Just 1.35.

34  
35 Councilmember Floreen,  
36 And that adds up to 1.3, 350.

37  
38 Unidentified Speaker,  
39 Right.

40  
41 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 The challenge is getting this information organized in an appropriate departmental  
2 structure. Any questions?

3  
4 Councilmember Praisner,  
5 Yes.

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 Ms. Praisner.

9  
10 Councilmember Praisner,  
11 It's not really a question. It's a comment. As we've discussed this and as Ms. Floreen  
12 said in the PHED Committee and I think HHS has -- we're starting, and it relates to other  
13 things I've seen where folks are asking for specific funding for specific things. Whether  
14 it's bonds funding or whatever, it's the -- I think it's the way we have programmed and  
15 budgeted for ongoing maintenance issues versus the department's, individual  
16 department's capacity to add additional funds for additional things. When I met with  
17 folks who were concerned about the conditions at senior centers, they weren't really  
18 talking about card tables and pool tables. They were talking about the windows and  
19 painting and real basic infrastructure. So the what gets funded by the department, and  
20 what gets funded in the overall maintenance CIP's or Operating Budget, depending  
21 upon the item, are things that I think when we talk in the Infrastructure Maintenance  
22 Task Force are -- as I understood from Mr. Orlin's conversation with me, these moneys  
23 were included in the calculations, or the issues were included in the calculations of the  
24 backlog or some of the other issues. The only question is where he showed the funding  
25 for, function, yes.

26  
27 Arthur Holmes,  
28 Functionally, I would say it's the DPWT.

29  
30 Councilmember Praisner,  
31 Right, and I do too, otherwise we can't track the status of these, And as we've argued  
32 that you need the database and the inventory in order for to you make the judgments as  
33 to what is the most critical issue to be looked at. It shouldn't depend on whether the  
34 department, individual program department has the capacity to fund something versus  
35 over all County has money. It should be based on a prioritization of the needs, and it  
36 shouldn't be up to a department to come in and have to say, you know, get extra money  
37 for windows and things. Now when you're talking about the pool table or the kiln or  
38 whatever, those are the individual recreation. I think the other complexity that has  
39 occurred is because we have this Rec tax issue. And the public thinks as they have with  
40 fire tax that you can just increase that, and dedicate it somewhere without  
41 understanding it all falls into your property tax limitations. So we'll, I think with the  
42 infrastructure task force ongoing work, we'll continue to refine and track these issues.

102

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its  
form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1 It's important for folks to highlight infrastructure needs that aren't being met, but it  
2 shouldn't be, when you're talking about windows and painting and carpets and  
3 restrooms, those are basic fundamental things that need to be covered within DPWT.  
4 So I support the additional funds but I think we need to be careful about dedicating them  
5 to an individual department. It's got to work through the prioritization process.

6  
7 Arthur Holmes,  
8 You're saying that they would put them with the DPWT.

9  
10 Councilmember Praisner,  
11 Right, yes.

12  
13 Council President Leventhal,  
14 Okay, Ms. Floreen.

15  
16 Councilmember Floreen,  
17 Well, so that's the Committee's recommendation that we just straighten out all the  
18 recommendation on deferred maintenance and that's what we have proposed here.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 There are no lights, keep going.

22  
23 Councilmember Floreen,  
24 Okay, that takes us to the next item, which I have lost.

25  
26 Council President Leventhal,  
27 Oh,.

28  
29 Councilmember Floreen,  
30 Which is solid waste, which had when I started out today.

31  
32 Councilmember Praisner,  
33 Do you want mine.

34  
35 Council President Leventhal,  
36 127?

37  
38 Multiple Speakers,  
39 [INAUDIBLE]

40  
41 Councilmember Praisner,  
42 Nancy, do you need it?





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Floreen,  
3 I need one.

4  
5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 Here we go. Here we go, got it?

7  
8 Councilmember Floreen,  
9 No doubt it's somewhere in the nether land out there.

10  
11 [LAUGHTER]

12  
13 Councilmember Praisner,  
14 You started recycling already.

15  
16 Councilmember Floreen,  
17 Yes, solid waste budget. There are some adjustments to it and maybe we'll find the  
18 ones I had notes on. Or maybe, hold on.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 Nancy? Do you want to let Tom take the lead on this one? He's raring to go.

22  
23 Councilmember Floreen,  
24 You want to do this Tom?

25  
26 Councilmember Perez,  
27 Yeah, that would be fine. Solid waste budget. As we all know, and this is out time to pay  
28 homage to Aron Tombka, who would always remind us that this is a closed system. So  
29 whatever we do here does not affect the General Fund, but they do great work here. We  
30 have a series of recommendations, I think we can get through this fairly expeditiously.  
31 Page two and three they talk about the waste disposal demand and pricing, which was -  
32 - we've had a number of discussions about whether we were going to be at capacity.  
33 We're nearing capacity, but we continue to be right around the 600-1,000 ton mark,  
34 about 92% of capacity. So, it's about where the projections are, if I say something that is  
35 incorrect, I'm sure Nancy or somebody there will correct me. We have all these  
36 conversations, we had conversations about the recycling. We have those with great  
37 regularity, and we continue to strive to get to our 50% recycling rate. There's been a  
38 host of activity in terms of greater education and enforcement, particularly focused in  
39 the commercial sector, which is where we understood the need was greatest. There's a  
40 continued effort to make progress there, there's certainly been improvement, and there  
41 continues to be room for further improvement.



May 9, 2006

Council President Leventhal,

Let me, I'd like to speak to that. I'm going to go ahead and put back on, and I'm sorry, I thought Mr. Silverman was going to offer this, but he's away. I'm going to go ahead and put back on for consideration -- I don't know if this would go on the Reconciliation List, but during the Committee's consideration of this, Mr. Silverman raised the question as to whether a private contract with a business might improve our ability to increase compliance with recycling in the business sector. And the Committee decided not to act on Mr. Silverman's suggestion at that time and I was not interested at that time in a sole source contract. But the suggestion was that \$50,000 would be made available for a contract to be bid on, would be put out to bid to try and increase compliance in the private sector with recycling requirements, and I'd like to just...

Councilmember Perez,

I would second that motion to place it on the Reconciliation List. I recall the conversation.

Council President Leventhal,

The question is, does it need to go on the Reconciliation List, this is a contained fund. Could we just direct, could we just direct DPWT?

Arthur Holmes,

You're just putting it in a pot that we can use for expanding the program?

Council President Leventhal,

We would be asking you to solicit private participation on a contract basis?

Arthur Holmes,

We do already have some private participation, and we could use that to expand that. What we couldn't do, what I don't think we could do is take the \$50,000 and use it in a sole source.

Council President Leventhal,

I'm not proposing sole source.

Arthur Holmes,

What you're proposing, I think when you are proposing is very doable.

Council President Leventhal,

This is consistent with the discussion we had in Committee but this is not sole source.

Arthur Holmes,



May 9, 2006

1 Right.

2  
3 Council President Leventhal,  
4 We would put \$50,000 out to bid for private parties to bid on, to work with other private  
5 parties to increase compliance with our recycling ordinance.  
6

7 Councilmember Perez,  
8 I think they get the message.  
9

10 Council President Leventhal,  
11 Without objection then, that will be included.  
12

13 Councilmember Perez,  
14 Let me just stop for a moment, while we're on disposal demand, et cetera, and ask our  
15 friends in the Executive Branch, are you comfortable that we are not going to exceed  
16 the permit limit in the coming year?  
17

18 Eileen Kao,  
19 Right now, our projections for this fiscal year is right around 610. We see a trend that's  
20 starting to creep up. The waste is starting to creep up again. I think we budgeted 610 in  
21 '07. Chances are it coming higher are pretty good. We don't have a fear right now that  
22 we're going to exceed our limit, though.  
23

24 Councilmember Perez,  
25 Well, we've always had the agreement that if you were running into difficulties that you  
26 would give us an informal heads-up and we will bring it up in Committee. Great. Okay,  
27 there is no proposal to raise the tip fee. We've often had a spirited discussion on tip  
28 fees, and at the moment I believe it's \$60 per ton for the materials delivered in open top  
29 roll-off containers and \$52 per ton for general refuse. The proposal is to remain steady  
30 on that. So, I see no lights, we've talked about recycling. Recycling promotion. We have  
31 continuing amounts in the same service budget for recycling, outreach and education  
32 listed on page 8. And we hope that those, we had a conversation a year ago about  
33 when our recycling efforts, or the education efforts are necessarily the smartest efforts  
34 in terms of, are we doing this the right way. Perhaps you can take a moment to describe  
35 highlights of what you may be doing different or better this year that you think is going to  
36 make an impact. Or has made an impact.  
37

38 Eileen Kao,  
39 I think over the past year, we've made significant strides in our recycling achievement  
40 here in the County. I think that the combination of our education efforts reinforced with  
41 the recycling investigators that we brought on board just a year ago in April of 2005, I  
42 think that we have seen significant strides forward. In my estimation, I think that we've



May 9, 2006

1 hit on a good combination of continued outreach education, positive reinforcement  
2 motivation, and we have supplemented that with the ability to take stronger action when  
3 it's necessary and when it's appropriate. We are seeing quite a significant amount of  
4 work on page 7 with our investigators. We have done a lot of investigation, specifically  
5 to geared to the commercial sector and the multifamily sector and I think that these  
6 sectors are responding by sitting more straight upright, and taking more seriously  
7 compliance with the regulation. I think, in addition, we had strengthened our regulations.  
8 As you know, we amended the regulations in the past year and we have add the mixed  
9 paper recycling for the multifamily sector. Whereas, prior to that, they were required to  
10 recycle just the newspapers. So, we've seen significant gains there as well.

11  
12 Councilmember Perez,

13 Good, so the regulations we have put in place are beginning to have an effect?

14  
15 Eileen Kao,  
16 Yes.

17  
18 Councilmember Perez,

19 Good. And my recollection was the mixed paper was where we had the greatest  
20 potential for bang for our buck?

21  
22 Eileen Kao,  
23 Right.

24  
25 Councilmember Perez,

26 We are beginning to realize that bang?

27  
28 Unidentified Speaker,  
29 Eileen Kao.

30  
31 Councilmember Perez,

32 Okay. Well, that's good news. We'll continue to move forward on that. Most of this stuff,  
33 I believe, is supporting the County Executive's recommendations. I'm up to page 12,  
34 Solid Waste Facility. The RRF, the biggest component is operate the RRF. The  
35 recommendation is to go as the Executive says. Solid waste transfer station,  
36 recommendation of a 30.3% increase above the current year budget. There's  
37 recommendation for approval of that. We obviously need to buy equipment always so  
38 that we can say that we are up to speed. Now, we talked about some positions here on  
39 page 14 now. The solid waste transfer station budget. We talked about two new  
40 positions versus three new positions. I actually, I would amend this to note 2-1. I'm with  
41 Mr. Leventhal on this one to support the County Executive's recommendation. So I'll



May 9, 2006

1 stop here. I know Ms. Floreen had a different view, just to see if you wanted to discuss  
2 that at all. I'm on page 14.

3  
4 Keith Levchenko,  
5 Just to clarify, the vote was on the staff recommendation.

6  
7 Councilmember Perez,  
8 Oh, the staff recommendation, right. Yes

9  
10 Councilmember Floreen,  
11 [INAUDIBLE]

12  
13 Councilmember Perez,  
14 Two new positions.

15  
16 Keith Levchenko,  
17 The Executive recommended three.

18  
19 Councilmember Perez,  
20 [INAUDIBLE] apologize. I meant to, I agreed that they needed three instead of two. I  
21 apologize. Again a [INAUDIBLE] of Ms. Floreen. Now you know how Justice Thomas  
22 and Justice Scalia feel.

23  
24 Councilmember Praisner,  
25 That is so over everyone's head.

26  
27 Councilmember Perez,  
28 I know, thank you. Okay, well, we'll keep moving along. The recycling center, and the  
29 Dickerson Compost facility, we recommend as sent over by the County Executive. Yes,  
30 I'm Thomas, you're Scalia. So, that's good. Waste collection services, I'm up to page 17,  
31 staff recommends approval of refuse collection budgeted as proposed by the Executive.  
32 We concur in that as well, residential recycling, vacuum leaf collection, household  
33 hazardous waste collection, and all of those items on page 18 and 19, the  
34 recommendation is to concur with the Executive. Mr. Knapp had a question on one of  
35 these items.

36  
37 Council President Leventhal,  
38 Mr. Knapp.

39  
40 Councilmember Knapp,  
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Councilmember Perez,  
3 Back on 15 Dickerson Compost Facility, I know that we sell a product leaf grow that is  
4 commercially available. What I wasn't clear on in the presentation as is laid on the  
5 packet is how much do we generate in a revenue perspective that offsets our County  
6 operating cost for the sale of that product?

7  
8 Keith Levchenko,  
9 Mainly, it's about a million dollars.

10  
11 Councilmember Knapp,  
12 We generate about a million?

13  
14 Keith Levchenko,  
15 That's correct.

16  
17 Councilmember Knapp,  
18 And our total operating costs is?

19  
20 Keith Levchenko,  
21 Our expenses are \$3.5 million of that with revenue.

22  
23 Council President Leventhal,  
24 Ms. Praisner had a question?

25  
26 Councilmember Knapp,  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 Councilmember Praisner,  
30 I just wondered what the status was as far as the leaf vacuum district, size and,  
31 because we now allow communities to opt in and well as opt out. And the packet didn't -  
32 - it talks about 80,000 single family, 40,000 multifamily, but I don't see the numbers, how  
33 that number has changed or not. You don't have to get that now but I'd like it, I'd like it at  
34 some point, since I would like to track that for folks. I think this would be a good time just  
35 to comment again. Folks often comment that they believe that someone is getting more  
36 for their tax dollars than they are getting because they are not in the leaf vacuuming  
37 district, want to make sure that folks know that that is an additional fee on the property  
38 tax, not your same tax dollars being used somewhere else. You have to belong to the  
39 district and there is a process for doing so in order to opt in. And it is not, it is an  
40 exclusive targeted fee related to that service, not Countywide.

41  
42 Arthur Holmes,



May 9, 2006

1 We'll get the numbers.

2  
3 Councilmember Praisner,  
4 Thank you.

5  
6 Arthur Holmes,  
7 Okay.

8  
9 Councilmember Perez,  
10 Okay, we are on page, solid waste charges. We had a hearing on the April 27th and all  
11 the various charges are listed on page 20. And staff recommends approval of the  
12 system benefit charges, recommended by the County Executive. The Committee  
13 concurs. 21 and 22 again a discussion of tip fees.

14  
15 Keith Levchenko,  
16 Councilmember Perez, I just want to confirm that we did get a revised CE proposal prior  
17 to the Committee meeting and that is reflected in the table, and there was some pretty  
18 substantial changes from the original CE proposal based on the recent electricity  
19 agreement approved. So just to note that for the Councilmember's attention, you are  
20 seeing decreases that were not in the original CE proposal.

21  
22 Councilmember Perez,  
23 All right. That's duly noted. The issue of recycling, tip fees and all that, I do want to point  
24 out for my colleague's attention, Circle 24, which is a chart that does show that these  
25 blue toters have really made a difference across the County, in terms of the recycling  
26 rates. I frankly wish we had them in Takoma Park where I live. We still have a very  
27 small little bin that is constantly overflowing, and it's much more difficult to do the right  
28 thing on. You have really shown an intervention, and the Council, we may recall,  
29 accelerated this program and I think that was a wise expenditure of funds from this fee.  
30 So everybody has these now that either, we've covered every district. And not too many  
31 people are giving them back.

32  
33 Arthur Holmes,  
34 I don't think so.

35  
36 Councilmember Perez,  
37 For a while there, there was some people, I recall, that were starting...

38  
39 Arthur Holmes,  
40 Giving them back and asking for them back.

41  
42 Councilmember Perez,





May 9, 2006

1 Asking for them back.

2  
3 Arthur Holmes,  
4 Now there's about 7%.

5  
6 Unidentified Speaker,  
7 7 to 8%, I believe.

8  
9 Councilmember Perez,  
10 Okay, but on balance this is a good program.

11  
12 Council President Leventhal,  
13 7 to 8% of the people don't want toters. You could give the excess to Takoma Park.

14  
15 [LAUGHTER]

16  
17 Arthur Holmes,  
18 For a fee.

19  
20 Council President Leventhal,  
21 Right. Well you could work that out with city, is Joy still here?

22  
23 Glenn Orlin,  
24 The problem is that you need special trucks to be able to empty them. They have an  
25 automatic emptying mechanism.

26  
27 Councilmember Floreen,  
28 [INAUDIBLE]

29  
30 Councilmember Perez,  
31 The final two items here, the new senior engineer position for monitoring and oversight  
32 of [INAUDIBLE] Dewey Drive landfill, we concur with the County Executive's  
33 recommendation. I wanted to spend a little bit of time at the end talking about the issue  
34 of increased diesel cost for haulers. I met with the haulers and their counsel on a  
35 number of occasions. This is obviously an issue everywhere that General Holmes has  
36 talked a lot about the fact that we are paying a lot more for fueling our Ride On buses,  
37 our school buses, the increase in fuel cost has affected everyone. We have a number of  
38 contracts that have been in place already, and the question presented is, should we  
39 basically reopen those contracts to address concerns that have been raised by haulers,  
40 and at least one other jurisdiction, Howard County, has done just that. And the policy  
41 consideration are certainly understandable. There is one school of thought that says a  
42 deal is a deal. You enter into a deal and the fuel costs are somewhere in the vicinity of



May 9, 2006

1 8% of your total cost. So while it's a fair amount, it's not an overwhelming amount. One  
2 could argue and the other school of thought is this is an extraordinary series of  
3 circumstances, and we should attempt to provide some relief. It's my understanding that  
4 the County Executive has the authority to waive the regulations. At least that's what  
5 General Holmes told me when I met with him to provide relief. Am I correct, because...

6  
7 Arthur Holmes,  
8 I assume that it would require a waiver of the procurement regulation.

9  
10 Councilmember Praisner,  
11 By the CAO.

12  
13 Councilmember Perez,  
14 CAO.

15  
16 Arthur Holmes,  
17 By the CAO.

18  
19 Councilmember Perez,  
20 So, the CAO has the authority, if they so concluded, to waive it. They have concluded at  
21 this point that it is not, it is not going to happen. We'll just say that, and as, they intend to  
22 take no action at this time. And if I'm speaking out of turn, you let me know.

23  
24 Arthur Holmes,  
25 No, no. As our conversation went, that's correct. Also consider the fact that there are  
26 other contracts that this would affect.

27  
28 Councilmember Perez,  
29 No, I'm not, I don't say that judgmentally. I'm simply making a statement of fact. And  
30 part of what went into it, I presume, is the slippery slope implications, if we open this,  
31 then everybody, nonprofit that are doing business with the County came in and said  
32 we'll do it for "X." They have increased their overhead because maybe they have to  
33 deliver groceries to someone's home, can they come in and ask for an increase for their  
34 fuel? There is a domino effect. Everybody is getting nailed on this, and it's difficult to  
35 open one without opening them all. I believe that was probably a fair part of the logic.  
36 So, I'm aware of no one on the Council who introduced a measure to do anything  
37 differently. And I am aware that many conversations are occurring because I've had any  
38 number of them. And I suspect I will continue to do so, but I have certainly not  
39 introduced anything at this point in time. That's the budget. We recommend approval as  
40 noted here in.

41  
42 Council President Leventhal,



May 9, 2006

1 Okay, without objection, the solid waste services budget is agreed to. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Perez. Chairman Floreen, have you got the memo for agenda item 28?

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 I found that one, yes.

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 Great, okay, it's in your hands.

9  
10 Councilmember Floreen,  
11 The Council will be glad to know that the T&E committee has recommended some  
12 reductions in the budget. And this of course is a chargeback associated with the vehicle  
13 replacement fund. This would be a 2.5% reduction to those funds that result in a net  
14 reduction of about a nearly \$250,000 from the budget. This is an internal service  
15 reduction, but basically it would just reduce everybody's dependence on this fund. And  
16 with that, we don't have any other recommendations...

17  
18 Council President Leventhal,  
19 Ms. Praisner.

20  
21 Councilmember Praisner,  
22 We talked yesterday when we talked about the utilities account about some of the  
23 comments that MFP has made. And some of the issues we've looked and are going to  
24 continue to look at, as it relates to take home policy for vehicles and motor pool  
25 vehicles, and the whole issues of how many vehicles we have, either in motor pool or  
26 take home status, on what the right versus responsibility is as for both of those vehicle  
27 concepts. Parts inventory issues and a variety of things that I think folks have brought  
28 forward as concerns from a standpoint of maintenance and how long a vehicle is in  
29 maintenance relative to parts and other issues. I think, when we do the take home car  
30 policy in February, Sonya, I had already noted from the utility's perspective, there was  
31 an issue of making sure, given the significant increases on the cost and potential for  
32 reliance on a personally assigned take home vehicle, and issues of use of that for  
33 personal rather than required use, I think we need today go back and look at the  
34 number of vehicles assigned to a department. It's been suggested to me by several  
35 employees that that is an area not necessarily in the department.

36  
37 Arthur Holmes,  
38 Oh, no, no.

39  
40 Councilmember Praisner,  
41 I just want to be clear, that there may be a need to tighten the responsibility and tighten  
42 the decision-making from a standpoint of who signs off on getting a take home vehicle



May 9, 2006

1 and also how many vehicles might be motor pool assigned and what might be the most  
2 economical way of dealing with these issues as well as the appropriate policy issue. So  
3 I think we will be looking at that in the February time period. Thank you.

4  
5 Council President Leventhal,  
6 Okay, go ahead, Ms. Floreen.

7  
8 Councilmember Floreen,  
9 That's DPWT.

10  
11 Council President Leventhal,  
12 Okay, that concludes DPWT and we are now on the Office of Procurement,  
13 Chairwoman Praisner.

14  
15 Councilmember Praisner,  
16 Thank you, if Dr. Tignor will join us at the table, and I saw Marcia Watkins, others from  
17 OMB, et cetera. The Management and Fiscal Policy Committee recommends approval  
18 of the Office of Procurement's FY '07 Operating Budget as submitted by the Executive.  
19 The only increases in '07 being requested in the budget beyond those that are  
20 associated with just carrying forward the cost and the compensation with the current  
21 component, is an additional \$32,540 for temporary clerical support and \$41,580 to  
22 transfer the part-time the Program Manager II position to a full-time Program Manager II  
23 position and that's a function of two initiatives of the County Council. One is the  
24 County's living wage law, which has some requirements of procurement to watch the  
25 contractual requirement for employees of individuals who have contracts with the  
26 County, non-nonprofit contract, and the second is the small business reserve program,  
27 which, although not managed in the Office of Procurement will have a lot of  
28 expectations of work that will need to be done by the Office of Procurement, working  
29 with the Department of Economic Development on this issue. So, the Office of  
30 Procurement, as you know, is responsible for acquiring all goods, services, and  
31 construction necessary to carry out the functions of government and their operations  
32 deal with procurement of goods and services but also with special programs like the  
33 MFD programs, and Dr. Tignor, is there anything you would like to say?

34  
35 Dr. Beatrice Tignor,  
36 Thank you, Ms. Praisner, other than the Office of Procurement's budget is  
37 approximately 92% personnel, 7.9 in operating cost. Other than that, as you said, our  
38 request this year is less than \$75,000.

39  
40 Councilmember Praisner,  
41 Sonya, anything you wanted to add? I don't see any lights so the Office of Procurement  
42 budget is approved as recommended by the Committee. Thank you very much.

114

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Dr. Beatrice Tignor,  
3 Thank you very much.  
4

5 Councilmember Praisner,  
6 Next budget is the County Attorney's Office. As for our County Attorney, Mr. Thompson.  
7 The Committee met on the budget and recommends no reductions and approves the  
8 increase of \$298,410. The Committee discussed with the County Attorney the issues of  
9 reorganization that the County Attorney has done internal to the department in order to  
10 create different teams for supervision and to discuss and implement paid for  
11 performance. As we were told by the County Attorney, when we all implemented the  
12 Pay for Performance program, OHR has determined that County Attorneys at a certain  
13 level cannot supervise other County Attorneys at the same grade level. I indicated, and  
14 we'll have some further conversation outside the budget, that having supervised folks at  
15 the same and higher levels in the Federal Government, including folks at super grade  
16 levels when I was not at that level. I'm having trouble with OHR's judgment and  
17 determination, and want to explore this on a -- if you have an interdisciplinary team or  
18 folks with different expertise, they're going to be getting different salaries based on that  
19 expertise. For example, medical doctors, given the salary action of the legislation will be  
20 higher salaried than perhaps the supervisor for that unit. And if you can't supervise  
21 someone who is getting a higher salary, I think we have some problems. So I think it's  
22 an issue that needs to it be explored further. And secondly, the other comment that was  
23 made that the stand of control issues within the department of supervising, the number  
24 and the recommendation of supervising 6 to 10 Attorneys would be a heavy substantive  
25 workload. With all due respect to the County Attorney, it was my personal view that you  
26 can, especially when you have professional roles and a lot of paper process work, I'm  
27 not sure that the span of control issues of supervision are either a Public Safety or a  
28 situation where County Attorneys can't supervise more than these individuals.  
29 Supervision in quotes. So, I guess the comment made by the Committee or by this  
30 member of the Committee is we will continue to monitor that, but it seems to me that the  
31 issue again, having supervised a lot more, who, again, are in that same kind of role of  
32 being out of the office and managing issues, the number seemed low to me. And the  
33 whole policy, either as related to OHR and the County Attorney's Office seemed out of  
34 kilter with professional offices. So we recommended approval of the budget but we're  
35 going to continue to look at those issues. The other comment I guess I would make is to  
36 continue to compliment the department for the efforts they've made in debt collection  
37 and expenditures associated will also help with making sure that, between finance and  
38 the County Attorney, we have the information to be able to process lack of payment, go  
39 after and pursue lack of payment situations. So those who are delinquent will be held  
40 accountable. Mr. Thompson? Anything you want to say? It was on, there is a problem  
41 with that light.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Chuck Thompson,

3 Thank you very much, I appreciate your comments. I do think that, when asked about  
4 how private firms do it, I'm not sure that I said that partners supervise 6 to 8 associates.  
5 I don't know but it's probably fewer than that.

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,

8 Well, it would depend, it seems to me, on the function.

9  
10 Chuck Thompson,  
11 And the firm.

12  
13 Councilmember Praisner,

14 If you are doing education in a firm that has multiple functions, you may not, say,  
15 supervising that many. It's going to depend upon the firm or how they structure  
16 themselves, it seems to me, or how many paralegals they have, et cetera.

17  
18 Chuck Thompson,

19 But in any rate, we just want to try to move forward and I appreciate the  
20 recommendation of the Committee.

21  
22 Councilmember Praisner,

23 I see no other lights. So thank you.

24  
25 Chuck Thompson,

26 Thank you.

27  
28 Councilmember Praisner,

29 Howie, to you want to take the Office of Human Resources?

30  
31 Councilmember Denis,

32 Thank you, madam chair. I'm pleased to present of the budget of the Office of Human  
33 Resources, as lead member for personnel I see Joe Adler coming to the table and I  
34 want to thank him as director of the department, and Angela [Dizelos], Administrative  
35 Services Coordinator, and Brady Goldsmith who is somewhere here. There you go.  
36 Okay, Brady, how are you doing? This is a no-program enhancements budget. The  
37 Committee's recommendations are unanimous. The Committee led by Ms. Praisner as  
38 Chair did raise concerns about the mid-year data entry position and all positions added  
39 to the budget mid-year without notice to the Council. I hope our points were well taken  
40 so far as menu challenges are concern. The overall budget is \$149 million, an increase  
41 of \$19.5 million or 15%. Expenditures reflect increases in the employee health benefits  
42 self-insurance fund. The Committee reviewed the fund as part of the compensation and





May 9, 2006

1 benefits, which I previously presented to the Council and which has been approved. The  
2 recommended budget increases full-time positions from 65 to 68 and work years from  
3 47.2 to 48.7. The Council can see the recommended chargebacks on page 2 and the  
4 program measures for Montgomery Measures Up on the bottom of the page.  
5 Recommended changes in big bold print, no program enhancements. However, a  
6 yellow caution light, the department does anticipate increases in FY '07 contract costs  
7 for the Occupational Medical Services Program, which provides a variety of work-  
8 related medical evaluations including fitness assessments for Fire, Correctional, and  
9 Police employees. It is anticipated that the industry-wide escalation in the cost of  
10 medical services will increase the cost in FY '07 when a new contract is negotiated.  
11 Other changes are listed towards the bottom of page 3, of postage and mailing, copier  
12 rental and so on. Then stop the presses for an EPAF Program update. Our EPAF  
13 Program update, of course E stands for electronic. PAF stands for Personnel action  
14 form, basically computerizing personnel information, and the ever popular sentence still  
15 appears and I will just read it verbatim. "The goal is for EPAF to serve as a gateway to  
16 HRMS, FAMIS, E-Timesheet, and the Financial Disclosure System."

17  
18 Councilmember Floreen,  
19 Enough said.

20  
21 Councilmember Denis,  
22 I think maybe Financial Disclosure System got people's attention. But again, I just would  
23 love to see these acronyms spelled out the first time that they are used because these  
24 go out online and some people try to understand what it is we are referring to here.  
25 HRMS is Human Resources Management System. FAMIS is Financial Management  
26 System and, of course, E-Timesheets speaks for itself. I think a Rosetta Stone to  
27 explain these acronyms would certainly be appreciated by some. Under the category of  
28 expenses for performance-based pay, Ms. Praisner raised questions about the  
29 projected increase in operating expenses for the new performance-based pay program  
30 that is scheduled to start in FY '07. The current estimate is \$190,000. The Committee  
31 recommendation is to approve the budget but we do anticipate that a supplemental  
32 appropriation may be needed during FY '07 due to additional costs associated with the  
33 new occupational medical services contract. The current contract ends June 30 of this  
34 year. At the same time, the department is experiencing an increased service volume in  
35 the following areas. Periodic exams in the public safety and CLD holders. I'm sure  
36 everyone knows that CLD stands for [Corey] Lee Denis, my daughter, she is very happy  
37 to have her own acronym.

38  
39 [LAUGHTER]

40  
41 Councilmember Denis,





May 9, 2006

1 Beyond that, CLD is whatever it means. Commercial, CDL? It's not even CLD. But it's  
2 CLD here. CDL, Commercial Drivers' License. 10 to 15-fold jump in medical history  
3 reviews for seasonal temporary employees, a continued high volume of return to work  
4 exams, an increase in the number of physicals for volunteer firefighters and additional  
5 public safety recruits. And I do believe that does it. Any question?

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 There are. Ms. Praisner.

9  
10 Councilmember Praisner,  
11 I just want to comment, I missed the OMB, Office of Management and Budget  
12 discussion yesterday because I had to leave early. I think it was yesterday. The issue  
13 that is related both here and there is the issue of positions added mid-year or the  
14 changes to personnel complement added mid-year, for which the Council then has a fait  
15 accompli when it goes to deal with the budget next time. Either because folks have  
16 been hired or they are in the process of being hired, or folks have been promoted. It is  
17 important for us, I think, working with the language in the budget reconciliation  
18 document to, the budget resolution to be clearer about what the expectation is, and also  
19 the position report, which we receive need some tweaking in order to make sure that the  
20 Council gets the kind of information it needs.

21  
22 Council President Leventhal,  
23 Ms. Floreen.

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 Just wanted to point out a typo for the public's benefit on the fourth line, I don't think  
27 you're saying the budget is \$7 million.

28  
29 Ralph Wilson,  
30 Yeah, it should be 435,000.

31  
32 Councilmember Floreen,  
33 Isn't it 149?

34  
35 Ralph Wilson,  
36 Yeah, that's the total budget of the OHR, which includes the medical services.

37  
38 Councilmember Floreen,  
39 Whatever it is, it's not...

40  
41 Councilmember Denis,  
42 The General Fund portion.



May 9, 2006

1  
2 Ralph Wilson,  
3 Yeah, exactly, it's 435,700 and the percentage is 6.2.

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 Yes, okay. Thanks, that's all.

7  
8 Council President Leventhal,  
9 Okay. That concludes the Office of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Adler, thank you,  
10 Mr. Denis. Agenda item 32 is the office of intergovernmental relations. Is Ms. Wenger  
11 here?

12  
13 Councilmember Praisner,  
14 Yes, I saw Melanie in the back. As Mel is working her way forward, let me again  
15 comment on the outstanding job which the Office of Intergovernmental Relations does,  
16 both in Annapolis and through Sarah [Morningstar] on Capitol Hill. I now have Sarah  
17 engaged in the issues of the telecommunications legislation. And she has been on the  
18 conference calls, has picked up right away on the issues and has been interacting with  
19 our delegation already. Superb work. And her relationships with them has helped  
20 facilitate that interaction. She is extremely well respected by the staffs of our delegation.  
21 And on Capitol Hill, just as our office staff, who are focused more intensely on Annapolis  
22 are extremely well focused and well respected. And I wanted to make that point. It's a  
23 lean operation, but it is a smart and very effective operation. And I wanted to make that  
24 point because each year that I see both Annapolis and Capitol Hill, they become more  
25 challenging to keep track of, let alone herd the cats or the cows, whatever it is we are  
26 herding.

27  
28 Melanie Wenger,  
29 We thank you. Thank you very much for the compliment.

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 Again, this Committee reviewed the budget and recommends approval of the  
33 Executive's budget. The packet notes that the PHED Committee conversations on the  
34 Department of Economic Development related to the lobbying on Capitol Hill on funding  
35 for [BRAC] related issues is probably more appropriately transferred to this office  
36 because of the ongoing efforts that are needed and because of the capacity to manage  
37 that contract relative to not just the existing [BRAC] or what we have focused on in  
38 [BRAC] to this point, which is FDA, but we have a host of other [BRAC] issues. Not just  
39 related in Montgomery County, but we are going to be affected by the [BRAC] actions in  
40 Anne Arundel County from the traffic perspective and from other issues. I guess we can  
41 monitor what happens in Hartford County but Anne Arundel County and Fort Meade,  
42 and that [BRAC] significant traffic impacts, significant traffic on I-95 corridor, which is



May 9, 2006

1 our eastern corridor. It was just thought that that needed to be transitioned and I want to  
2 thank Ms. Floreen for recognizing that, too, given her previous experience with Senator  
3 Mikulski's office and her interest in the [BRAC] issues on the west side of the County as  
4 well. The Committee recommends, obviously the budget is mostly personnel and there  
5 are personnel cost increases, 87% of the budget is personnel. The one issue that we  
6 did talk about, well, on the personnel side, changes the conversion of a part-time  
7 Administrative Aide position to full-time. That will allow additional assistance, support,  
8 especially in Annapolis. The one issue that we commented on is the issue of the fact  
9 that the telephone system in Annapolis does not allow voicemail for individual  
10 employees while they are there. So it's the Administrative Aid leaves and there is no  
11 central answering to be able to transfer phone calls. You have to be both working on, in  
12 the buildings of Annapolis and state government and also worrying about what phone  
13 messages are going to be done. So we are hoping that that can continue to be worked  
14 on. Mel, any comments you want to make?

15  
16 Melanie Wenger,

17 No, other than thank you. I think all the recommendations are very reasonable and,  
18 again, I appreciate the support that the Council has provided to the office at the state  
19 and federal level over the past year.

20  
21 Ralph Wilson,

22 We agreed on the figure here, the contract amount, 72,000. We'll have to do some puts  
23 and takes, I'm sure with OMB .

24  
25 Councilmember Praisner,

26 Okay, that's fine, thank you.

27  
28 Council President Leventhal,

29 Thank you, Melanie.

30  
31 Melanie Wenger,

32 Thank you.

33  
34 Council President Leventhal,

35 Without objection, The Office of Intergovernmental Relations budget is approved. We  
36 now turn to the Inspector General.

37  
38 Councilmember Praisner,

39 Yes, I saw Mr. Dagley. The Committee recommends approval of the Office of the  
40 Inspector General's budget. As you know, the Council from a standpoint of the workload  
41 or of the general plan, multi-year plan for the Inspector General office reviews that as  
42 well. But does not review the specific work plan from a standpoint of activities unlike the



May 9, 2006

1 Office of Legislative Oversight where we, in essence, creates the work plan in concert  
2 with the office. The one issue, and I know there was an addendum, here it is, the one  
3 issue that we asked about in the Committee was the request we've had conversation  
4 both with others and risk management and the auditor conversations about a fraud  
5 hotline, and the judgment is that the best place for that location at this point, finance  
6 may also have some of the similar needs. But to put a hotline, a fraud hotline in the IG's  
7 office would cost \$17,000. That would be an annual recurring costs because it's  
8 assumed the IG would partner with a nonprofit. The association of certified fraud  
9 examiners or some similar vendor to establish the third party. So anonymous hotline.  
10 And the Committee recommends putting that amount on the Reconciliation List.  
11 [COUGHING] Excuse me, Mr. Dagley, do you want to make any comments about the  
12 budget? And then I don't know if Ralph has any comment.

13  
14 Thomas Dagley,

15 That amount of 17 is an estimate, and what I would like to do is pilot that for one year  
16 with a nonprofit third party, the ACFE, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. I'm  
17 very optimistic it will be effective but our commitment will not go beyond one year until  
18 we had a chance to examine it, and look for the effectiveness and efficiency. It's clearly  
19 the trend that other offices of Inspector General are using as well as other public sector  
20 organizations to farm it out to an expert. And that gives 24-7 coverage, 365 days a year.

21  
22 Councilmember Praisner,

23 As I said, we had this conversation with the auditors, with the Finance Department from  
24 the internal audit function, as well and obviously, whether you talk about Sarbanes-  
25 Oxley, or any of the issues that are associated with more due diligence being  
26 necessary, I think this fits with that.

27  
28 Council President Leventhal,

29 Very good. Mr. Dagley, thank you for your good work. The Council appreciate what you  
30 do. Without objection, the IG's budget is approved. We now have before us the budget  
31 for the Department of Recreation. Councilwoman Floreen will take the lead this  
32 afternoon. Chairman Silverman had a family obligation, which took him away.

33  
34 Councilmember Floreen,

35 Yes, indeed. The Committee does not recommend any reductions in the budget for the  
36 Department of Recreation. Going through the Reconciliation List issues, first of all, we  
37 had some request for additional trips to be provided by the Department For Seniors in  
38 particular. I think it was all for seniors, right? And we said, well, sure, but we think, given  
39 the cost associated with those trips, that they could be recovered through increased  
40 fees. So we recommended adding, I'm not even sure if this is a Reconciliation List item,  
41 if we recommend that the cost of this program be validated, I suppose, in the budget,  
42 but covered by fees.



May 9, 2006

Councilmember Praisner,

It gets put on the Reconciliation List with an assumption, which says offset by fees and how much the fee offset would be.

Councilmember Floreen,

Right. So it's really not one of those negotiable items, but it's intended to be a wash.

Then the next item, five of the Councilmembers had recommended proposal to expands after school programs from existing 10 to all 38 County middle schools, and then to create four more after school sports academies using several models as pilots in addition to the existing academy at Blair. As I recall Mr. Praisner, I believe you had the group's recommendation was that this might encompass some of the grant proposals that were out there. The Committee recommended certainly was enthusiastic about this proposal and recommended really a series of options to be placed on the Reconciliation List. First one, to expand the Rec Extra program from 10 middle schools to all 38. That would be an additional \$791,000 to be added to the Reconciliation List. Increasing the number of days per week at all middle schools from 3 to 4, a great idea would add another \$211,000 to the reconciliation. Additional field trips, 6 more for each one of these facilities would add another \$124,000 to the Reconciliation List. Adding a sports academy at Wheaton High School, we all enthusiastically endorse using the model for employed at Blair High School, would add \$277,000 to the Reconciliation List. Adding a sports academy at Spring Brook, using the recreation model based on the George B. Thomas approach would add \$348,000 to the Reconciliation List, and adding a similar academy at Paint Branch would add \$348,000 as well. And finally, adding a sports academy to Einstein, using a model involving the YMCA would add an additional \$348,000. So the total of these programmatic recommendations adds up to almost \$2.5 million to be added in increments to the Reconciliation List.

Council President Leventhal,  
Ms. Praisner.

Councilmember Praisner,

I would like to speak to it. I want to thank my colleagues for the work on this as well. We have been talking about, for some time now, talking about expanding after-school programs. As you folks will recall, the Council saved the Rec Extra program by adding money for it last year. Because it was on the brink of being eliminated because of the way it had been put together with the community use of public facilities and the Rec Department. These initiatives are to obviously provide additional activity for young people in the time when they are most vulnerable for mischief. In fact, it is part of a gang prevention incentive program that I think focuses on the hours most likely to be less positive from the standpoint of activity. The Blair High School model of the sports academy has been defined and discussed already from its perspective of the success



May 9, 2006

1 that it's generated, both in providing alternative athletic activity for those who would be  
2 ineligible for the teams at the high school because of their grade point averages. But  
3 also for focusing not only on burning that physical energy, but also having academic  
4 success and that many of the young people who have participated in the Sports  
5 Academy Program have seen their grade point averages increase, And dramatically  
6 improve by virtue of the other services, the academic support services and that positive  
7 feeling towards school that comes out of the Blair Sports Academy program. We had  
8 testimony to that, attesting to that success at the public hearing process. The  
9 Collaboration Council has been given from a state money to evaluate and to map after  
10 school programming in the County, and we know there are a myriad of things that don't  
11 even cross the government transom, so to speak, because they are either church  
12 related or Rec Council related, nonprofit, community types of services. And it's  
13 important for us to know and map what's available for young people in what  
14 communities such that, when we find we have a successful program, we don't  
15 necessarily duplicate what already exists but we build on it. And that's the hope of the  
16 efforts beyond the work that is proposed here is what the collaboration Council's work  
17 this year in both mapping and identifying gaps, but also in evaluating these programs,  
18 which we consider pilots. To the extent that the sports academy works at Blair and may  
19 not be a pilot, the question is, how do you roll it out and what other ways can you roll it  
20 out, partnering with others? The reason why the funds for Wheaton High School are  
21 lower than the others is because there already were some funds in the Rec Department  
22 budget to support some services at Wheaton and so we are piggy-backing on that. We  
23 did receive some grant requests from the George B. Thomas, what has been  
24 traditionally a Saturday school program to begin to work in the after school setting for  
25 the academic piece. And we did have a request from the YMCA to do what might be a  
26 series of wrap around, plus athletic activities. All of these have been highlighted in the  
27 gang prevention initiatives as high areas of need to focus on, and that's part of the  
28 reason why these schools and these neighborhoods were picked. They come up in that  
29 threshold. In the case of the George B. Thomas model, they had requested money for, I  
30 think, six to eight schools and on the suggestion list that since this is a new one, we  
31 should pilot it, and since the enrollment at Blair is so much larger than the enrollment at  
32 these other high schools, the likelihood of the number of students who would be coming  
33 forward is fewer than the number of students that would be associated with the Blair  
34 Academy and that's why the dollars are a little different. So the models at the George B  
35 Thomas, with George B. Thomas would be the same but obviously depending upon  
36 volunteers, may look a little different there. The sport academy, Einstein model with the  
37 YMCA, that is not the total dollar amount that they had requested but we are suggesting  
38 that they use comparable dollars, and work on their model and we will use this year as  
39 an evaluation. I hope that the Council can fund all of these because I think that this is a  
40 year when we have to learn from what we are doing and get a comprehensive grasp of  
41 after school programs, so the Collaboration Council's role is significant in this. Let me  
42 just say that if the Council starts to see that it can't do all of these, I would suggest that

123

This transcript has been prepared from television closed captioning and is not certified for its form or content. Please note that errors and/or omissions may have occurred.





May 9, 2006

1 increasing days per week at middle schools or adding more field trips is less important  
2 than getting it in all of the middle schools. So, I would urge folks to look at that in that  
3 context. It's critical that we get into all of those middle schools and get beyond where we  
4 are. And if I may comment only briefly on another piece, when the communities of public  
5 facilities, was in front of them for the budget, I made the comment that I would urge folks  
6 to try to find the report that led to the whole concept back in 1976, '77 time period of the  
7 community use of public schools. And the concept originally was for program not just for  
8 renting out space. It was for a program coordinator concept within every middle school  
9 who would tailor programs. Yes, have least use, but tailor programs for the community  
10 using our middle schools. Carol [Petsel] was a coordinator at Parkland Middle School,  
11 then Parkland Junior High, years ago. That's where I first met her. So we had the right  
12 ideas. We kind of lost our way, and for a variety of reasons. Let me also say that I think,  
13 to some extent, we have shifted the structure of the Rec Department in a way that  
14 needs to be reexamined. I want to see more Rec personnel out there in the community  
15 with the vans and the interactions and the activity where you are not just saying we  
16 have a field trip and you can sign up. but where you are developing relationships with  
17 the community kids and you are using our Rec Centers in a more drop-in proactive  
18 basis rather than scheduling kinds of issues. I think we have less special events and  
19 more special attention. And I hope that we can move in this direction in the future.

20  
21 Council President Leventhal,

22 I wanted to comment and I see Mr. Knapp wants to as well, and I'll call on Mr. Knapp in  
23 a moment. I and all Councilmembers recognize that after-school programs are very  
24 much at the cusp of a variety of challenges that are confronting us as a County, gang  
25 prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, childhood obesity prevention. These are all  
26 issues that are very timely that are in the national news, as well as local news and they  
27 are on all of our minds. And I had conversation with Ms. Praisner about this initiative,  
28 these initiatives and, like her, I hope we can find a way to fund them. As I've said, you  
29 know, every proposed dollar on the Reconciliation List competes with every other  
30 proposed dollar, and it remains to be seen how many very good ideas we'll be able to  
31 fund but I do support the concept of a significant expansion of after-school programs in  
32 middle schools. During the public testimony, there were a number of questions raised  
33 about the Blair Sports Academy, not questioning whether we should have one.

34  
35 Councilmember Floreen,

36 We actually get into that a little bit more in the budget, Mr. President.

37  
38 Council President Leventhal,

39 Okay, what pages are they?

40  
41 Councilmember Floreen,

42 It's on page 7.





May 9, 2006

1  
2 Council President Leventhal,  
3 Okay. Well, I'll reserve my comments until we get there. So, I'll just hold off. Let me also  
4 just say that the Office of Legislative Oversight was supposed to give us an inventory in  
5 addition to the Collaboration Council...

6  
7 Councilmember Praisner,  
8 Yes.

9  
10 Council President Leventhal,  
11 ...and my hope is that whatever we are able to fund on this, as we expands it overtime,  
12 that we are guided with some sort of inventory so we take into account programs that  
13 already exist. We should not assume that nothing is in place in some of these middle  
14 schools. We should try to augment and build upon.

15  
16 Councilmember Praisner,  
17 Right. If I may comment, the collaboration Council has the grant to do the mapping. I  
18 think the Office of Legislative Oversight will be working with the Collaboration Council  
19 providing this on the evaluation process. The database and the capacity to build the  
20 database and the mapping experience already exists within the Collaboration Council.  
21 The OLO expertise is in helping to ask the right question, shape the evaluation, the look  
22 at outcomes, and all those issues that think they've already had conversations about  
23 working collaboratively.

24  
25 Council President Leventhal,  
26 Okay. Mr. Knapp.

27  
28 Councilmember Knapp,  
29 Thank you, Mr. President. I thank Ms. Praisner with her description and for her support  
30 of the after school program. I know the Council as a group is very interested in these.  
31 One of the points I would add to the discussion is that, this past March in the Upcounty,  
32 we pulled together a group of Watkins Mill, Quince Orchard, or Northwest and Seneca  
33 Valley clusters, and the associated Middle Schools, and working with the SoccerPlex  
34 through a grant they had received to pull together a program. That's basically through  
35 private funds, and one of the questions I had was, is how many students do we reach  
36 using the Blair, at Blair right now?

37  
38 Councilmember Floreen,  
39 We did have a pretty good presentation on that in Committee. I don't know if it's here in  
40 the budget.

41  
42 Melanie Coffin,



May 9, 2006

1 I have actually statistics with me. We are looking at about 120 kids a day, 120 to 160  
2 kids a day depending upon whether we've got pizza or not at the Blair Sports Academy  
3 and we're showing on at least with our -- we've used some of the BSA money  
4 leveraging some state grant money to work on math test prep and getting some  
5 incentives and linking it to the sport academy. We are getting about as many as 120 to  
6 130 kids in academic support for those test prep days as well. I can pass these over  
7 and leave these statistics with you.

8  
9 Councilmember Knapp,

10 That would be great. The other reason is it's clearly one of those programs that's out  
11 this that we ought to be looking at. And just to make sure that that gets brought into the  
12 fold as we are looking at what's working and what's not, this is a model that was put  
13 together by the six principals and the SoccerPlex. They were not necessarily building  
14 any model, they were just trying to figure out where they need to put kids and get them  
15 in homework clubs, and get them into league activity at the SoccerPlex And, so far, the  
16 feedback has been positive, but you kind of roll that in, and to date they have not  
17 approached and said they need any additional resources. But I don't think -- I think they  
18 funded the whole thing at about \$100,000. To the extent there may be additional minor  
19 costs, they may need assistance with in the coming year. The other piece, and this gets  
20 into elementary and middle school, and I will defer to you guys a little bit as to where it  
21 should go. We have we had an after school program at Plum Gar for many years and I  
22 guess the contractor that had been administering it has pulled out. And so I guess there  
23 was about between 70 and a 100 kids that don't fit any place, but the fact we need to  
24 put additional seasonal employees in. And so, I don't know if the committee, if this had  
25 come up at all, but I wanted to get a sense from you if you know how much, what the  
26 resources that would be required to put that program back into Plum Gar. And if it's  
27 even possible to do that since the contractor, I guess, that had been administering it is  
28 no longer there.

29  
30 Jeff Bourne,

31 A year ago *Ninos Unidos* was involved in a partnership with that particular center, of  
32 providing a very extensive after school program, large academic piece as well as an  
33 activity piece and that's where the partnership came together. I know in talking with our  
34 Region Manager for that area, he gathered some information in approximately \$20,000  
35 range, to be able to provide the staffing to support a similar program without that  
36 partnership. That has not been included to my knowledge anywhere in a request or a  
37 recommendation either to the Committee or to the Council.

38  
39 Councilmember Praisner,

40 If you want to put on the Reconciliation List, I would be happy to do that.

41  
42 Councilmember Knapp,



May 9, 2006

1 I would like that, because the Plum Gar community is one of the more impacted  
2 communities in the County, I think for \$20,000 to reach 100 kids. Are you okay with  
3 that?

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 Sure.

7  
8 Councilmember Praisner,  
9 We did that have conversation about the smaller Rec Centers like Plum Gar area, like  
10 Ross Boddy, Good Hope and concerns. Again, the comment there that I think we  
11 discussed within the Committee is how much time they're shut versus how much time  
12 they are open and available for young people to just drop in. My frustration with Good  
13 Hope is how many times I drive by it and it's dark, so to speak, and that's, I think, got to  
14 stop. You have to start looking at these things, these facilities as untapped resources.

15  
16 Councilmember Knapp,  
17 Plum Gar is the core of that neighborhood. If you pull that out, we are in trouble. Okay.

18  
19 Councilmember Praisner,  
20 Nancy?

21  
22 Councilmember Floreen,  
23 Okay. We went through some of the community grants. Some were included in the  
24 County Executive's budget. We proposed deleting \$100,000 for Maryland Soccer  
25 Foundation, And recommend that we take that up after we consider the lease issues  
26 and so forth that are being considered down at Park and Planning now, and we will get  
27 to later. With respect to Rockville Community Baseball, they have requested dollars to  
28 assist them in their plans to buy and install lights at the Rockville Campus of  
29 Montgomery College for their baseball initiative. We had some considerable  
30 conversation about this. We recommended that we support \$150,000 contribution with  
31 language that it be reduced by any cost savings that are achieved by their work with the  
32 College to reduce the area that would need to be lit here. The light proposal here is  
33 consistent with the lights that we are using on County [INAUDIBLE] fields to Park and  
34 Planning. And we also recommended that they talk to is City of Rockville and ask them  
35 for support as well and that any fees for the use of the field should be the same for all  
36 County residents, not just Rockville city residents insofar as this was a great cost-  
37 sharing approach. Next, Montgomery Youth Hockey has asked for support on their  
38 initiative to repair the Rockville Ice Arena. The Committee did not put this on the  
39 Reconciliation List. Mr. Silverman wanted to reserve a right to talk about this later and,  
40 so, he, of course, can do what he chooses to do. Next, the Sports Council, the newly  
41 created, or in process of being created Sports Council of Montgomery County has a  
42 really fascinating proposal to organize all sports groups, and recreation teams in a way



May 9, 2006

1 that creates sort of an advocacy group. It develops consistency and might operate in a  
2 way comparable to the Arts and Humanities Council. We shall see. It seemed like a  
3 good initiative to get going so that folks can share information, advocacy and at least  
4 talk about coordination. So we recommended that they go get some private money to  
5 support them and identify \$40,000 as a Reconciliation List item. City of Takoma Park is  
6 looking for continued support, additional support for it gymnasium at the community  
7 center. We, they've gotten support for the, from the County, the general community  
8 centers, some significant dollars over time. And like anything else, the cost has gone up  
9 and their project has become more complicated. Washington Adventist has agreed to  
10 make a total donation of \$750,000. There is a bond bill that was acquired with credit to  
11 delegate Peter Franchau in the amount of \$360,000 and we were looking at a match for  
12 that. The Committee recommends putting \$240,000 in the Reconciliation List for '07 and  
13 looking and adding \$27,000 in fiscal year '08. I can't remember Ms. Praisner, I guess  
14 this would have to be in the Operating Budget.

15  
16 Council President Leventhal,  
17 Oh, yeah.

18  
19 Councilmember Praisner,  
20 Oh, yeah.

21  
22 Council President Leventhal,  
23 Oh, yeah.

24  
25 Councilmember Floreen,  
26 There you go. Just like everything else. And we also felt, had some considerable  
27 conversation with the city about how with this amount of County contribution we would  
28 expect County residents to be paying fees comparable to that of city residents.

29  
30 Council President Leventhal,  
31 I just might point out on this item that it's very generous of Washington Adventist  
32 Hospital to support this project. The County is also proposing to support Washington  
33 Adventist Hospital at the same time to build its urgent care facility up the street, and,  
34 indeed, the payment by Washington Adventist Hospital to the Takoma Park Community  
35 Center was arrived at through negotiations with neighbors that also led Washington  
36 Adventist Hospital to say it's going to open its urgent care center. One might argue that  
37 this subsidy from Washington Adventist Hospital to the Takoma Park gym is indeed a  
38 County pass-through of County dollars.

39  
40 Councilmember Floreen,  
41 Let's just not get going on that point. But we are nothing but all about partnerships.  
42 Program maintenance, in the DPWT budget, we talked about the right category for



May 9, 2006

1 maintenance dollars. Some of the money on the list. This money, this \$250,000 here,  
2 this is Rec money, right? For Rec type programs. So we support that in the budget.

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,  
5 I'm sorry. I'm back on this Takoma Park issue. Was response received by city to the  
6 suggestion that the fees should be, that extra fees would not be charged for non-  
7 Takoma Park, Montgomery County residents? Do we how that affects their cost  
8 calculation on the gym?

9  
10 Melanie Coffin,  
11 They didn't provide us anything in writing. They indicated at the Committee session that  
12 this if this was a deal breaker, they would work on how to figure it out.

13  
14 Councilmember Praisner,  
15 Exclusive use of the gym. We recognize that there are activities that might occur in the  
16 gym that might be different from the rental of the gym and that that would need to be  
17 sorted out.

18  
19 Jeff Bourne,  
20 I think the assumption was that this might work similarly to some discussion with  
21 Gaithersburg about the Aquatic Center and that fees would be not established  
22 differently for city or non-city resident.

23  
24 Council President Leventhal,  
25 It's clear to me that that would be the assumption of the Councilmembers who  
26 suggested it. The question is, is that the assumption of the City of Takoma Park?

27  
28 Jeff Bourne,  
29 I believe their indication was, if necessary they would find the mechanism to accomplish  
30 that. I believe they said here.

31  
32 Councilmember Praisner,  
33 There was no screaming and tearing of hair, let's put it that way. I'm sure that if they  
34 wanted to reserve, they will feel free to communicate with us further if this is a big issue.

35  
36 Council President Leventhal,  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 Councilmember Floreen,  
40 With that, we, Marilyn, do you want to come in on that one?

41  
42 Councilmember Praisner,



May 9, 2006

1 I was going to comment for Mr. Knapp's purposes but he is not here. I wanted to  
2 comment on the grant request for funds for Oktoberfest, which we considered within the  
3 Regional Service Center budget and where we are recommending increase funds.

4  
5 Councilmember Floreen,  
6 It's also on page 8.

7  
8 Councilmember Praisner,  
9 Yes.

10  
11 Councilmember Floreen,  
12 I think we supported that. I was going to ask the department if they wanted to make any  
13 general comment. We just to some things around the edges here.

14  
15 Councilmember Praisner,  
16 You need to push the button. Now it's on.

17  
18 Rita Howard,  
19 I just wanted to thank you for your consideration for the potential funding for the after  
20 school programs. It will make a big difference, and it's very important to mission of the  
21 department.

22  
23 Councilmember Floreen,  
24 Let's see here. With that, as I said, we all have exercised, shown some concern and  
25 tried to exercise leadership about finding ways to improve maintenance generally at  
26 facilities that are partially Rec, partially other agencies. And we think that, within the  
27 DPWT budget we've added some funds that will go a long way towards addressing  
28 those shared needs. Let's see, Mr. Leventhal wanted to talk about the Blair Sports  
29 Academy.

30  
31 Councilmember Praisner,  
32 Mr. Knapp is back.

33  
34 Councilmember Floreen,  
35 Mr. Knapp's back? I would just note on page 7, only skateboard park is coming along.  
36 There is money in the budget to address Adult Education classes. MCPS is actually  
37 transferring dollars to recreation. It's a beautiful day.

38  
39 Rita Howard,  
40 Actually...

41  
42 Councilmember Floreen,



May 9, 2006

1 Let it be noted.

2  
3 Rita Howard,  
4 They transferred dollars this year. That's a one-time transfer. We won't get it again.

5  
6 Councilmember Floreen,  
7 It has to happen.

8  
9 Rita Howard,  
10 Yes.

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 And there's money in the budget for the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club for operating  
14 expenses, which will have offsetting revenues. Mr. Knapp, I think we support the  
15 contribution to the Oktoberfest. Ms. Praisner you said that...

16  
17 Councilmember Praisner,  
18 It's in the Regional Service Center funding. We made a proposal for discretionary  
19 funding for community activities for which Oktoberfest would fall in each of the Regional  
20 Service Centers will have enough money to cover those things, if the Council takes that  
21 money off the Reconciliation List. Oktoberfest would be, presumably a high priority...

22  
23 Councilmember Knapp,  
24 One would think.

25  
26 Councilmember Praisner,  
27 ...in the Upcounty.

28  
29 Councilmember Knapp,  
30 I appreciate that, and I think conceptually makes sense. The only question I would have,  
31 just from an implementation perspective, I know Rec has been involved and how it  
32 worked in the past. What does that do?

33  
34 Melanie Coffin,  
35 That won't change.

36  
37 Councilmember Knapp,  
38 All the pieces work the way they should. Okay.

39  
40 Councilmember Praisner,  
41 If I could follow up, two things. I would love to get a list of the community activities,  
42 events, galas, festivals, parades, whatever, that the Rec Department provides





May 9, 2006

1 assistance to and to what extent that you have on an annual basis or that you do. So we  
2 have an appreciation of that. Second comment I would make is I appreciate the  
3 information you provided me on the aquatics program and facilities within the County.  
4 And let me just say that, as I look at it, it looks to me as that we have an issue of total  
5 water surface area as it relates to the east side of the County and the extent to which  
6 the newer facilities and the larger facilities are being built elsewhere. It means that we  
7 have a deficiency of access for water programming if the surface area is not  
8 comparable and I would like to get a response from you. It's on obviously after the  
9 budget, but I would like to get a response as to how we can more equitably address  
10 those issues given the density that we are talking about and the needs, especially since,  
11 I guess we're not going to discuss it today but especially since we've got another facility  
12 that looks to me like it's going in on the west side of the County, meaning the  
13 Gaithersburg Aquatic Center. So I would like some additional information about that.  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 Councilmember Floreen,  
17 With that, I will note that there's...

18  
19 Council President Leventhal,  
20 Mr. Knapp has a question.

21  
22 Councilmember Floreen,  
23 Some considerable information on the back of this packet about the various academy  
24 type after school programs that I think may help Councilmembers in looking at the range  
25 of options that would be supported by the expand after school programs proposed by  
26 Ms. Praisner, Mr. Denis, Mr. Perez, Mr. Subin, Mr. Leventhal. And Mr. Leventhal, I know  
27 you had a question about the Blair Sports Academy. Well... It's page 7.

28  
29 Council President Leventhal,  
30 Yes, I'll let Mr. Knapp go first.

31  
32 Councilmember Knapp,  
33 Thank you. I know when the Rec Department puts on all the various festivals and galas  
34 it participates in, it has a mobile van shell thing that it takes around. How old is that?  
35 This is kind of the Hub of all these activities. Does that continue to operate in a way that  
36 makes sense or does it continue to fall apart?

37  
38 Melanie Coffin,  
39 It's about 10 years old. We've just done some renovations on it, it's not going to last  
40 forever, but it's probably good for the next few years anyway.

41  
42 Councilmember Knapp,



May 9, 2006

1 Okay. I just wanted to check and see if that's sufficient. How much is one of those?

2  
3 Melanie Coffin,  
4 We could always use another one. That one is about 100,000.

5  
6 Councilmember Knapp,  
7 Are prices comparable?

8  
9 Melanie Coffin,  
10 Ten years ago.

11  
12 Councilmember Knapp,  
13 So, I'm sure they've gone down since then.

14  
15 [LAUGHTER]

16  
17 Councilmember Knapp,  
18 If you have some background information, that would not be so bad if you would just  
19 look at it thanks.

20  
21 Council President Leventhal,  
22 Okay. So what was the Rec Department's response? I understand it's in here, tell me  
23 what page it is, to the concerns raised in testimony on the Blair Sports Academy  
24 specifically that this was intended to be a private program, that was essentially taken  
25 over by the Rec Department at an increased cost and staffing levels that were top  
26 heavy?

27  
28 Melanie Coffin,  
29 We've had ongoing conversations with the Blair community. It's actually been very  
30 interesting discussion that started in October when Councilmember Perez's office  
31 contacted varying agencies, the YMCA, the Rec Department, staff that actually ran the  
32 pilot program in the Spring for the soccer Blair Sports Academy. And there have been  
33 several iterations of what a sports academy should look like. And when Council actually  
34 contacted Recreation and contacted police and contracted the school system. We sort  
35 of came up with the budget that was approved at the supplemental level. I actually  
36 worked with the community and using my favorite budget term, I've crosswalked the  
37 assumptions made, I know it's terrible. They went what? So the assumptions made for  
38 the various budgets that have been published, for lack of a better term, for the sports  
39 academies. And where there are different assumptions, and where there are the same  
40 assumptions. The testimony at the public hearing that said that they were never  
41 explained is just inaccurate. They have been explained. There is one portion of the  
42 community that does not agree with the assumptions that built the program. But it's not



May 9, 2006

1 the, it's not the entire community, and it's certainly not the view of the school or the  
2 partners that are continuing to work with us. I don't know if that answers your question.

3  
4 Council President Leventhal,  
5 I don't know if it does either.

6  
7 [LAUGHTER]

8  
9 Melanie Coffin,  
10 [INAUDIBLE]

11  
12 Councilmember Floreen,  
13 He did have some more considerable detail about who served in this program in the  
14 Committee. I don't know if it's in the, I haven't been able to locate it.

15  
16 Council President Leventhal,  
17 It says here on page seven, it says "Additional information from the department follows  
18 this memorandum." What is that?

19  
20 Councilmember Praisner,  
21 It's not included.

22  
23 Council President Leventhal,  
24 It's not.

25  
26 Councilmember Floreen,  
27 I don't think the details, and we had a lot of information about exactly...

28  
29 Councilmember Praisner,  
30 Yes, I think there are even department responses specific to each of the positions and  
31 comments that was made at the hearing and maybe, I don't know. You might want to  
32 review those, George, or [INAUDIBLE], but I do think Mr. Parr's been involved in all of  
33 those discussions as well, as I recall. But it was more factual than just, it was more  
34 responsive to the comments and concerns than just the list of how many students, et  
35 cetera, but it talks about the model and the references, too.

36  
37 Council President Leventhal,  
38 Okay, well, if time permits, which it probably won't, I may talk with colleagues about this  
39 further in the coming days.

40  
41 Melanie Coffin,



May 9, 2006

1 Yeah. I now have a full box of Blair Sports Academy backup material that I would be  
2 happy to share with you Mr. Leventhal.

3  
4 Councilmember Floreen,  
5 Okay with that, that's the Recreation Department's budget.

6  
7 Council President Leventhal,  
8 Okay, without objection, the Rec Department's budget is approved and that is all we  
9 have on our agenda today. We will see you tomorrow morning at 9:30 with the City of  
10 Gaithersburg Aquatic proposal.

11